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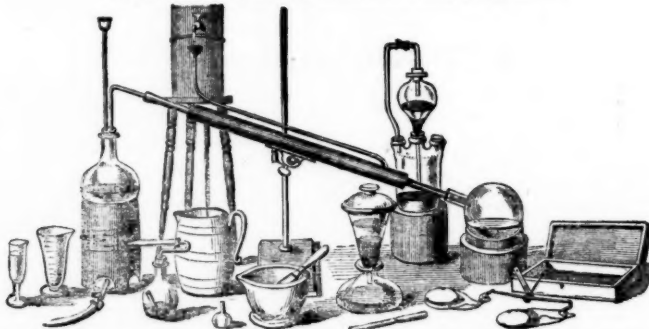
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LONDON, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1849.

REVIEWS

Memoirs and Correspondence of Viscount Castlereagh, second Marquess of Londonderry. Edited by his Brother, Charles Vane, Marquess of Londonderry. Vols. III. and IV. Colburn.

By a singular concurrence of circumstances, after the lapse of nearly half a century the questions discussed in these volumes are again brought forcibly under public consideration,—and subjected now to a trial of which it is not in all cases easy to foresee the issue. We have presented to us in these pages the motives which led to the Union between Great Britain and Ireland at a time when the effects of that Union are the theme of controversy; and closely connected with that topic we have a mass of evidence and opinion on the great questions still mooted,—the necessity of a State provision for the Catholic Clergy,—the conditions of Sacred Education at Maynooth,—and the effects produced by the insane insurrection of a vain enthusiast.

That two independent parliaments should long co-exist in harmony having no stronger bond of connexion than the "golden and unnumbered link of the Crown," is contrary to all reason and all experience. The English and Irish parliaments came twice into direct collision:—they differed in the choice of a king, and they differed in the choice of a regent. Hence, the Irish House of Lords in 1703 and 1707 addressed Queen Anne in favour of a parliamentary union, to avoid the chances of a future civil war like that between James the Second and William the Third:—hence also, from the time that the Irish parliament, in opposition to that of England, had voted the unrestricted regency to the Prince of Wales, Mr. Pitt and the best statesmen of his day became convinced that a union of the two parliaments was necessary to prevent the chances of a dismemberment of the empire. A dangerous rebellion and a French invasion led the English ministers to hope that two such escapes would induce the nobility and gentry of Ireland to consent to a more perfect identification of their country with England; and safety being thus ensured, it appeared probable that the laws of exclusion might be greatly relaxed, if not altogether abolished. The Union as thus proposed offered security to the Protestant and emancipation to the Catholic. Without a Union, the English ministers believed that the Protestants must continue to be regarded as a garrison in a hostile country, and the Catholics as conquered but still refractory enemies. This is the view of affairs indicated by the Duke of Portland in an official letter to Lord Castlereagh, from which we quote one paragraph.—

"I wrote to the Lord Lieutenant yesterday (which was one of the reasons which prevented my finishing this letter, which you will observe, was begun on Tuesday night) on the subject of his conversation with Lord Kenmare, in which I deprecated, in the strongest terms, any encouragement being given to the Catholics to hope for any alteration in their situation, as long as the Parliament of Ireland should continue in its present state. The more I consider that proposition, the more I am convinced that it never ought to be attempted, unless a Union takes place: that, in the present circumstances.—I mean, the state of Ireland's present independence.—it would be equally injurious to the orderly Catholics, who are now possessed of landed and personal property, and to the Protestants, and that it would once more deluge the country in blood, and that what is called Catholic emancipation cannot be attempted with safety to the persons of either persuasion but through the medium of a Union and by the means

of a United Parliament. Nor do I hesitate to add that, for the sake of the professors of both religions, I hope it will not be one of the first acts of that Parliament."

Lord Castlereagh takes the great principle as admitted. He assumes that the Union is essential to the integrity of the empire, the security of the Protestant proprietary, and the admission of Catholics to a full participation in all constitutional privileges. He can find no public interest which could be placed in competition with these great objects. But he informs the Duke of Portland that a formidable mass of private interests will be arrayed against the measure; and he thus classifies what he calls the natural opponents of a Union.—

"The Borough Proprietors.—The Secondary Interests in Counties.—The Primary Interests in Counties.—The Barristers.—The Purchasers into the present Parliament.—Individuals connected with Dublin.—It is scarcely necessary to point out the various modes in which the measure goes to affect the classes above mentioned. It is evident that borough property must suffer a diminution of value by the proposed arrangement. There being but one member for each county intended, thirty-two individuals, whose weight now returns them to Parliament, must stand absolutely excluded. The Primary Interests, though not threatened with exclusion, are exposed to new contests. The Barristers in Parliament look to it as depriving them of their best means of advancement, and of their present business in the Courts, if they support it, the Attorneys having formed a combination for this purpose. The Purchasers are averse to it, as being a surrender without advantage of the money paid for their present seats. The Individuals connected with Dublin, right or wrong, consider a Union as tending to lower the value of their property."

He calculates the pecuniary amount of these interests at about a million and a half sterling, and adds:—

"If the above statement approaches towards the truth, there is a most formidable principle of resistance existing in the nature of the arrangement, which, connected with the general strength of opposition, and supported by local clamour, it is difficult for the weight of administration or the merits of the measure itself to overcome. What measure of national advantage could prevail on the individuals of whom Parliament is composed to sacrifice a million and a half of their own private property for the public benefit! National calamity or popular authority might compel them to do so; but the danger must be more imminent, and their preservation be more obviously and immediately connected than it is, or else the popular authority must be very strong in favour of the measure, before they will yield their private to their public feelings."

The Duke of Portland in reply offers to leave the county representation of Ireland as it then stood, to give a pecuniary compensation to the proprietors of the boroughs proposed to be disfranchised, and to conciliate the citizens of Dublin.—

"The apprehensions of all descriptions of Proprietors and resident inhabitants in Dublin are too natural to be treated as prejudices, or to be expected to be got the better of by the common means of persuasion or influence. Nothing, however, should be omitted that can conciliate or dispose them to acquiesce in the measure. In respect to representation, I conceive there could be no objection to put them upon the same footing as the Counties, and to leave them in possession of the two Seats they now have in the House of Commons. Any and every other indulgence might also be conceded to them; but, at the same time, they must be given to understand that, whenever it shall be thought advisable to bring on the measure of Union, their supposed local interests will not be considered as any obstacle to it, and must not be expected to be put in competition with those of the kingdom in general, and the stability and aggrandizement of the British Empire."

It has been so often repeated by vague de-

claimers that England forced the Union on Ireland from motives of commercial jealousy, that some persons have probably been found credulous enough to believe it. The truth, however, is that the project of Union was distasteful to the mercantile classes in England; and it was not without some difficulty that Mr. —the late Sir Robert—Peel was induced to give it his support. On the general conduct of England towards Ireland during the quarter of a century preceding the Union we have the following important testimony from Edmund Burke.—

"In the name of God! what grievance has Ireland to complain of with regard to Great Britain? unless the protection of the most powerful country upon earth, giving all her privileges, without exception, in common to Ireland, and reserving to herself only the painful pre-eminence of tenfold burdens, be a matter of complaint? The subject as a subject is as free in Ireland as he is in England: as a member of the empire, an Irishman has every privilege of a natural born Englishman, in every part of it, in every occupation, and in every branch of commerce. No monopoly is established against him anywhere; and the great staple manufacture of Ireland is not only not prohibited, but only not discouraged, but it is privileged in a manner that has no example. The provision trade is the same; nor does Ireland, on her part, take a single article from England but what she has with more advantage than she could have it from any nation upon earth. I say nothing of the immense advantage she derives from the use of English capital. In what country upon earth is it that a quantity of her linens, the moment they are lodged in the warehouse, and before the sale, would entitle the Irish merchant or manufacturer to draw bills on the terms and at the time in which this is done by the warehouseman in London? Ireland, therefore, as Ireland, whether it be taken civilly, constitutionally, or commercially, suffers no grievance. The Catholics, as Catholics, do: and what can be got by joining their real complaint to a complaint which is fictitious, but to make the whole pass for fiction and groundless pretence? I am not a man for construing, with too much rigour, the expressions of men under a sense of ill usage. I know that much is to be given to passion, and I hope I am more disposed to accuse the person who provokes another to anger than the person who gives way to natural feelings in hot language. If this be all, it is no great matter; but, if anger only brings out a plan that was before meditated and laid up in the mind, the thing is more serious. The tenor of the speeches in Francis Street, attacking the idea of an incorporating Union between the two kingdoms, expressed principles that went the full length of a separation and of a dissolution of that Union, which arises from their being under the same crown. That Ireland would, in that case, come to make a figure amongst the nations, is an idea which has more of the ambition of individuals in it than of a sober regard to the happiness of a whole nation."

There is no doubt that the Act of Union was carried by enormous bribery; but there is just as little doubt that the administration of Ireland from the date of the nominal independence of its Parliament was conducted by bribery alone. Instead of paying an annual rent, then, the English minister, as Lord Castlereagh happily expressed it, bought up, by the Union, "the fee simple of Irish corruption:—and the history of the last sixteen years of the Irish Parliament proves that this strong expression was not an exaggerated one. The prices paid for Union votes appeared so extravagant that the English ministers hesitated to complete the engagements into which Lords Cornwallis and Castlereagh had entered; particularly objecting to the excessive number of new peerages. Lord Castlereagh's remonstrance reveals some curious incidents in the final struggle.—

"I confess it appears to me that Lord Cornwallis, having been directed to undertake and carry the measure of Union, and having been fully authorized,

by various despatches, to make arrangements with individuals, to which not only the faith of his own but of the English Government was understood to be pledged, will be very harshly treated, if the wisdom of his arrangements, now the measure is secured, is to be canvassed at a moment when the pressing necessities under which those arrangements were made cannot but be very fresh in the recollection even of persons on the spot, but certainly cannot be fairly estimated by those who were removed from the scene of action. If the Irish Government is not enabled to keep faith with the various individuals who have acted upon a principle of confidence in their honour, it is morally impossible, my dear Lord, that either Lord Cornwallis or I can remain in our present situations: the moment it is surmised that we have lost the confidence and support of the English Government, we shall have every expectant upon our backs, and it will remain a breach of faith, as injurious to the character of Government as to our own, having given an assurance which we may not be enabled to fulfil. I am fully aware of the responsibility to which the Irish Government has been subjected in the exercise of the authority which I conceive to have been delegated to them at the outset of this measure: the importance of the object could have alone induced the King's Ministers to grant such powers; and I hope they will now, in deciding what remains to be done, advert to the nature of the struggle as well as the authority which the Irish Government conceived itself in the possession of. Whether that authority has been abused, is certainly a consideration to which those who were employed to administer it must be subject. It certainly has been exercised successfully, as far as the object is concerned, and not for any purposes personal to either Lord Cornwallis or myself. Whatever has been done, has proceeded from the best view we could form of the necessities of our Government; and I feel assured that the King's Ministers, in reviewing it after the object is attained, will not be disposed to canvass it upon the cold grounds of abstract convenience in point of patronage, much less with any disposition to avoid the charge of having made the favours of the Crown, in an unusual extent, auxiliary to the measure. In so long a struggle, in a certain period of which, after the defection of seven members in one division, the fate of the measure was in suspense, it is not wonderful that the scale of favours should have been somewhat deranged; if, in two or three instances, and I do not believe it will appear in more, certain individuals, availing themselves of circumstances, obtained assurances of favours to which in strictness they are not entitled. I should hope it will be reckoned rather a misfortune arising out of the state of parties than a fault, and that there will be rather a disposition to support the faith of Government than to supersede engagements, now the measure is secured, which, though they may be deemed improvident, when viewed unconnected with the accompanying circumstances, were certainly made with no other view than for the accomplishment of the object."

The Union had the cordial support of the great majority of the Catholic hierarchy. The Rev. Dr. Moylan, titular bishop of Cork, thus writes on the subject.—

"The great question of Legislative Union is, thank God, most happily decided. The manner in which Lord Castlereagh has conducted that important measure is highly honourable to his Lordship, and evinces the most extensive abilities. He has closed a most glorious and successful parliamentary campaign. May the Almighty grant him health and length of days to consolidate this good work, and to see the advantages realised which are expected eventually to accrue from it to this much distracted country! I trust it will put an effectual stop to those civil and religious disorders, which have so shamefully disgraced this nation, and which it seems still the inclination of a certain faction to keep up."

We have before us a series of resolutions adopted by the Catholic prelates of Ireland in 1799 and signed by twelve of their body, including the four archbishops. Two of these are most important.—

1. That a provision through Government for the Roman-Catholic clergy of this kingdom,

competent and secured, ought to be thankfully accepted.

2. That in the appointment of the prelates of the Roman-Catholic Church to vacant sees within the kingdom, such interference of government as may enable it to be satisfied of the loyalty of the persons appointed is just, and ought to be agreed to.

Unfortunately, the arrangements here suggested were connected with the plan for Catholic emancipation, to which Pitt had neglected to obtain the King's consent. Resentment at what George the Third conceived to be something like ministerial contumely, combined with the prejudices which had been infused into the royal mind, led the king to refuse any and every concession to the Catholics; and thus at the very outset the Union was prevented from effecting one of the great objects which it was designed to accomplish. How far Mr. Pitt's cabinet was pledged to the Catholics has been often a matter of dispute; and we will, therefore, quote Lord Castlereagh's recital of the steps which had been taken, —from a letter addressed to Mr. Pitt himself.—

"When I left Lord Cornwallis, he certainly was prepared for some difference of opinion in the Cabinet on the principle of the measure itself, and for much caution on the part of his Majesty's Ministers in general, with respect to the period when they might think themselves justified in proposing to Parliament so important an alteration of the Test Laws; but he did not apprehend, from anything that had hitherto passed on the subject, that their sentiments were adverse to the principle of the measure connected with the Union, much less that they were prepared to oppose the question on its merits, and to declare their determination to resist hereafter any further concession to the Catholics. As this impression on his Excellency's mind was in a great measure the result of what passed with reference to this subject when I was in England in the autumn of 1799, I think it necessary to recall to your recollection that, after the details of the Union had been completed, I was directed by the Lord-Lieutenant to represent to you the state of parties as they stood at that time in Ireland, and particularly to request that you would ascertain what was likely to be the ultimate decision of his Majesty's Ministers with respect to the Catholics, as his Excellency felt it to be of equal importance to the future quiet of Ireland, to his own feelings, and to the credit of the Administration in both countries, that he should so conduct himself towards that body as to preclude hereafter any well-founded imputation, or even any strong impression on their minds that they had been deceived. The statement I then made was, as I recollect, nearly to the following effect—that we had a majority in Parliament composed of very doubtful materials; that the Protestant body was divided on the question, with the disadvantage of Dublin and the Orange Societies against us; and that the Catholics were holding back under a doubt whether the Union would facilitate or impede their object. I stated it as the opinion of the Irish Government that, circumstanced as the Parliamentary interests and the Protestant feelings then were, the measure could not be carried, if the Catholics were embarked in an active opposition to it, and that their resistance would be unanimous and zealous, if they had reason to suppose that the sentiments of Ministers would remain unchanged in respect to their exclusion; while the measure of Union in itself might give them additional means of disappointing their hopes. I stated that several attempts had been made by leading Catholics to bring Government to an explanation, which had of course been evaded; and that the body, thus left to their own speculations in respect to the future influence of the Union upon their cause, were, with some exceptions, either neutral or actual opponents—the former entertaining hopes, but not inclining to support decidedly without some encouragement from Government; the latter entirely hostile, from a persuasion that it would so strengthen the Protestant interest as to perpetuate their exclusion. I represented that the friends of Government, by flattering the hopes of the Catholics, had produced a favourable impres-

sion in Cork, Tipperary, and Galway; but that, in proportion as his Excellency had felt the advantage of this popular support, he was anxious to be sustained, in availing himself of the assistance which he knew was alone given in contemplation of its being auxiliary to their own views, that he was not inviting Government in future difficulties with that body, by exposing them to a charge of duplicity; and it was peculiarly desirous of being secure against such a risk before he personally encouraged the Catholics to come forward, and to afford him that assistance which he felt to be so important to the success of the measure. In consequence of this representation, the Cabinet took the measure into their consideration; and having been directed to attend the meeting, I was charged to convey to Lord Cornwallis the result, and his Excellency was referred by the Duke of Portland to me for a statement of the opinions of his Majesty's Ministers on this important subject. Accordingly, I communicated to Lord Cornwallis that the opinion of the Cabinet was favourable to the principle of the measure; that some doubt was entertained as to the possibility of admitting Catholics into some of the higher offices, and that ministers apprehended considerable repugnance to the measure in many quarters, and particularly in the *Aleghs*; but, that, as far as the sentiments of the Cabinet were concerned, his Excellency need not hesitate in calling forth the Catholic support, in whatever degree he found it practicable to obtain it."

Lord Castlereagh adds that none of the ministers present objected to the principle of the measure; that it was even discussed whether an immediate declaration to the Catholics would not be advisable, and that the notion was abandoned only through fear of alienating the partisans of Protestant ascendancy at a difficult crisis. Had Pitt taken such a step in 1799, before the Union was carried, it is all but certain that George the Third must have concurred in all his arrangements.

The refusal to proceed with emancipation put an end to the proposed state provision for the Catholic clergy, and to the ecclesiastical arrangements for bringing the Latin church in Ireland into close relations with the Government,—an object eagerly desired at that time by the Catholic hierarchy and the Court of Rome. Few readers will have courage to venture upon the learned, but rather prosy, discussions of Sir J. C. Hippisley on the various points of ecclesiastical discipline which these arrangements might affect. The chief difficulty in his view—and it is a difficulty which he fails to solve—is, that should the Catholic clergy accept salaries and be brought into intimate relations with the State, they might lose their influence over their flock; and be thrown into the hands of the regulars, who would be far more dangerous to public order than the secular clergy. Mr. Luke Fox points out an additional peril arising from the exclusive and monastic constitution of Maynooth.—

"The avowed principle of that institution is to educate for the Roman priesthood a class of men separated from their fellow-subjects, of every religious persuasion, as well Romanish as Protestant. If the object of British Government were the same as that which actuated the Spanish Cabinet of Philip the Second, when it founded the British and Irish seminaries at St. Omer, &c., namely, to form a body totally distinct in principle and interest from the mass of their fellow-subjects, I might, perhaps, subscribe to the policy, if not to the wisdom, of such an institution. It is, in fact to a certain degree, supplying the whole of your parochial Clergy from a monastery, trained in the deepest prejudices of the most dangerous political and religious sophistry. The tendency of this system has been uniformly to fetter, contract and illiberalize the human mind. Consult British and Irish history for its baneful influence for the last two centuries, equally destructive to its own as well as to different sects."

And again.—

"How do Maynooth and St. Omer differ, as seminaries of education, in any rational, political, moral,

and religious point of view? The professors the same, the course of reading the same, the separation from the rest of the world the same. In short, this institution was the work of a 'Petty, Plausible, Pustilluminous, Political Pretender'—you may finish the alliteration. It is monstrous, after the experience of two centuries, to introduce into this wretched country, at an enormous expense, a school for prejudice and treason, which has failed of producing a single man amongst its thousands and tens of thousands of pupils from its commencement to this hour, distinguished by wisdom, knowledge, or liberality. What then is to be done? This seminary is to be abolished: no separate place of education is to be allowed to Catholic Priests. Let them mix and converse with their fellow-subjects, whom they are destined to teach and instruct. In this, every allowance, consistent with the morality and safety of the State, is studiously to be allowed them. Their academic course, now a mystery, ought to be explained, revised and corrected. But, unless this shall be done, it is vain to lavish stipends upon men trained to an incurable hostility to our establishment in Church and State."

It was proposed to found a university open to students of all denominations, in which those educated at Maynooth should matriculate and graduate,—but they were not to interfere with the domestic discipline of the college. The plan appears to have met with the approbation of all parties,—and it is not easy to discover why it was abandoned.

It is but justice to the memory of Mr. Pitt to say that there was a magnificent unity in the scheme of the Union as originally designed which would in all probability have consolidated the strength of the empire and established peace and prosperity in Ireland. When that unity was broken by the insuperable obstinacy of George the Third it is to be regretted that its parts were not taken up as isolated measures to be decided on their own merits. The great questions of ecclesiastical policy had no necessary connexion with emancipation; though the settlement of them was undoubtedly rendered difficult by the odium which the Catholic clergy would have encountered by connecting itself with a government adverse to the civil claims of the laity. A great opportunity was offered for settling difficulties which have perplexed and agitated the empire since the beginning of the century—and for anything that human intelligence can foresee may remain unsettled at this close. We see what might have been done then,—we do not see what can be done now. The state of imperfection in which the Union was left has generated elements that must long seriously impede, if not prevent, its completion. Principles of cohesion have been washed by storm or wasted by time from the unfinished edifice; and the temporary expedients employed to fill up these gaps have seriously impaired the stability of the entire structure.

A collection of documents relating to Emmett's Rebellion concludes the fourth volume. For many and obvious reasons we are unwilling to enter into any discussion of an insurrection which but for recent events would have been recorded as the most rash and aimless to be found even in Irish history. We could wish that the Marquess of Londonderry had not noticed the parallel which the melancholy tale suggests.

Revelations of Life, and other Poems. By John Edmund Reade. Parker.

THE principal poem in this collection has the merit of an elevated purpose, thoughtfully expounded, earnestly enforced, and illustrated by much power and beauty. The framework of the composition is very similar to that of Mr. Wordsworth's 'Excursion'; but in a plan so wide and involving so little incident, no plagiarism is implied by the resemblance. Nor would such a suspicion gain much force from

the fact that in some instances the morals of Mr. Reade are coincident with those of his predecessor. In a theme exclusively didactic, to ignore the truths which genius has already made current would rather bespeak affectation than originality. Every page of Mr. Reade's book is impressed with the individuality and, it must be added, with the *peculiarity* of the writer. He furnishes, indeed, not a parallel so much as a contrast to the Poet of Rydal Mount. The prevailing tone of the latter is cheerful; and he deals even with wrong and suffering as if he had known them more through the medium of mental sympathy than through that of personal experience. It is true that he sometimes discovers the darker haunts of life; but they are seen as by the fresh light of morning, and their gloom is subdued by the brightness which reveals them. The atmosphere of Mr. Reade's mind, on the contrary, is that of evening after a day of storm. His vein is peaceful, but chastened. The influence of meditative retirement is apparent in both poets; but in one case we have the retirement of the hermitage, in the other that of the cloister. Both these phases have their value and appropriateness—the serenity which has fortified itself against the distractions of the world, and the pensive resignation which has been taught by its conflicts. Not the least useful lessons are those of suffering borne and improved. If Mr. Reade's muse has turned in sadness from the crowd, her retreat is a sanctuary, and her vespers are not the less pure or sincere because a tremulous note of memory vibrates in the hymn.

The argument of this poem is very simple. A country pastor, an enthusiast, a fatalist, and a fanatic meet together in scenes of natural beauty, and discuss their various beliefs. The first of these characters has been made by the author the vehicle of his own philosophy. In the second is portrayed the necessary disappointment of aspirations which are wasted in dreams and unapplied in action. The fatalist symbolizes the error of a mind which restrains its vital sympathies by mere logical speculations; and the fanatic is the type of that selfishness—the atheism of the heart—which converts the very forms and practice of adoration into impiety. There is much mournful truth as well as descriptive beauty in the following confession of the enthusiast.—

"But, alas!
Spiritual Vision faded, I have felt
Facile ascent by winged impulse won,
Immortal natures only may retain.
We picture happiness we cannot find,
Based nor in place, nor time. I would have formed
Some being to respond my aspirations:
To watch time's moments felt as they rush by;
Some eye to lighten up to mine; some face,
Record of undecaying memories!
The paradise I dreamed I have not found;
The mysteries I felt I have not fathomed;
The halo I projected was my own.
The Soul shapes forth a cloud whose name is change;
Wasting itself on shadows, glorious
As those I dwell on now."

"We looked toward
The Sun, rayless and red: emerging slow
From a black canopy that lowered above.
O'er a blue sky it hung where fleecy clouds
Swelled like low hills along the horizon's verge,
Down slanting to a sea of glory, or
O'er infinite plains in luminous repose.
Eastward the sulphurous thunder-clouds were rolled:
While, on the lurid sky beneath was marked
The visibly-falling storm. The western rays
Braided its molten edges, rising up
Like battlemented towers their brazen fronts
Changing perturbedly: from which, half seen,
The imaginative eye could body forth
Spiritual Forms of thrones and fallen Powers,
Reflecting on their scarred and fiery fronts,
The splendours left behind them."

The fatalist has struggled in his youth to reconcile the various inequalities of human condition with some presiding law of Wisdom and Beneficence—a result never to be derived from the mere study of the external. The injustice

and oppression which he encounters convince him that necessity, not goodness, is the arbiter of life. Fixed in this belief, he calmly resigns himself to a fate that seems inevitable.—

No more my restless being
Sought the indefinite for rest; when sunk
The sun in storms, in fiery rents disclosing
Shapes vanishing in thunders, when the winds
Raised their wild music from the waves, my soul,
A giant in its strength, awoke: I saw
Necessity in action, the great Power
Motioning all, that made me what I was.
In the gray desolation of the waves,
Drearily heaving, in the flying acid
Bearding the clouds, swept on like folded ghosts,
I saw the face of everlasting Truth!
I loved to watch great Nature acting round me:
Elements hurled to their allotted ends:
My spirit magnified the fate it shared.
I watched with joy the war of all on all:
Life soldering with death, repose with motion;
On mightiest forms, as atoms, I read graved
Necessity: one circulation pulsed
By Agency unseen.

In the fanatic, Mr. Reade has presented us with an extreme example of the class;—at least we have seen its disease indicated in much milder forms. There are, however, dramatic characterization and force in the presumptuous apostrophe which succeeds; and the nature of the speaker redeems the passage from the charge of undue extravagance. "And I," exclaims the fanatic,—

even I, thus lowly have been heard,
Yes, audibly answered from thy heaven!—hear:
On my watch-tower, like Habakkuk, I stood.
Winds roared along the vale, floods burst their chains,
And mingled with the night-storm; red lights flashed
From hurrying elements: half-ruined oak
Screamed, as they clung convulsively to earth.
That shook to her foundations: then—through clouds
Rolled, scroll-like, back, shroudings of buried darkness,
I saw the form of the destroying Angel!
His flashing face was turned on me! He held
In his red hand the opened Book of Life:
He turned its leaves of thunder while he seized
The Lightnings—scorching on its livid page
The World's damnation."

The mental states of his companions are, of course, regarded by the pastor as so many aberrations from the standard of truth. The fanatic being deemed incurable is left to his delusions; but the minister addresses an earnest and kindly appeal to the remaining interlocutors. It is to be regretted that this part of the poem is more remarkable for correct and amiable feeling than for force of demonstration. Not that arguments tending to faith and happiness are left unsuggested. On the contrary, much healthful wisdom may be inferred by the pains-taking reader. That our moral dispositions are the premises of our belief, and that cheerful views are the results, not the antecedents, of sympathies cultivated by action—are the truths which Mr. Reade would enforce; but they are too casually set forth to acquire the weight of conviction. We do not, therefore, gain the due ascendancy of one creed but a mere comparison of several. We are at no loss to feel which is the happiest; but, so far as these pages are concerned, many may doubt which is the truest. This defect is the more to be lamented because it might have been easily remedied. We furnish an example of the pastor's reasoning with the fatalist and the enthusiast:—

Ye sought in the abstract, the unattained,
Whose birth was feeling, born from healthful faith,
And craved by simplicity and love.
Its palpable face looks out from common things!
From daily forms that grow round us; from lights
Of smiles that break on us from eyes endeared,
In cherished melodies of gratitude;
In deeds that flowed from holier founts within;
And from that inner and diviner sense,
That harmonizes human hearts to good,
With touches finer than the rays that woke
Gray Memnon's statue into sound! In duties
Filling with temperate measure each calm day:
In Hope, the sublimated want of man,
Spiritually embodied: such our faith,
Whose discords to the soul's attentive ear
Melt into harmonies, the expression felt,
Though understood not.

So much for the design of this book. It is a pity that its real merit should occasionally be

marred by blemishes of style. The construction of the verse is at times elliptical even to obscurity; and this evil is increased by a fanciful punctuation which rather perplexes than aids. Mr. Reade has also a fondness for particular phrases, which not only weary by their repetition but are questionable in their nature. "Motioning," "motived," "pulsing," and words of this description abound throughout. Nor is the author altogether free from a magniloquent vagueness which contrasts ill with the real fibre of poetic sentiment to be found in his pages. Let him eschew such lines as the following:—

A God-intoxicated man replete
With a divinity of tendency.

In following out the *morale* of this poem we have not dwelt upon its grace of illustration. Let the reader take a few instances.—

Flowers.

The ever-loved, the ever-joyous flowers,
Whose blossoming are laughter: there, the rose
Languidly her dew-dripping cheek declined;
Her name a blessing, sanctified by love
And child-remembrances; the marigold,
Opened her beauty, sun-like, to the Sun,
O'erwelling when he sets, to be looked on
By no inferior eye. There, radiate, alone
Through cloudiest green the star-like jessamine;
Irises drooping in the luxury
Of a fine sorrow, their blue robes half-closed;
The azalea leaned against the soft gray wall:
There paled the delicate anemone,
Turning away her sweet head from the wind;
And there the humbler wall-flower shed a breath
That realized Elysium.

Mountain Scenery.

We gazed round:
The mountain, casting off the beautiful,
Auster majesty assumed; enfolding
His heather-breast with mist, he raised his crown
Of crags, and sat alone with solitude.
Moor rose abruptly into heathered hills,
Gry, wave-like, in wild fluctuation stayed.
The sky, the crags, the mere, the granite ground
Together there.

The Influence of Custom.

In time's mid-day, life's pilgrimage half done,
Hopes quenched, and passions lulled, we love the scene
That harmonizes past with present life.
The worn-out Mariner, home-fixed, though free
To wander o'er broad fields, contracts his walk
To the space trodden on the reeling deck.

Evening Landscapes.

We stood beneath
The granite Tor that overbowed the vale:
A black cave, sunk in rocks, yawned entrance near;
Gray fragments hurled from thunder spitten peaks
Laid wildly round the entrance, in whose depths
Palpable darkness, lion-like, was buried.
One beech-tree, lightning-scathed, beside it stood,
That, dew-fell, on the crag died ere its spring.
Like some fine nature blighted by the world,
No visible movement marked the clock of time,
Save the approaching and departing Light;
The lessening and lengthened shadows, on
Their dial-plate of everlasting rock.
Great Heaven in its majestic march moved o'er;
Stars hidden with the crowns of light, behind.
Cloud-congregations solemnly rolled on:
Eternal motion and eternal rest!

The fern, in beauty sleeping, sighed its joy!
The red ash glowed, the steeped furze bathed in gold:
Twilight shed rose-hues o'er stern brows it crowned:
And the sharp granite spears shot far in heaven,
Softened their iron cones.

Among the smaller poems, the "Final Lines on Doubling Sheep-Slate" deserve especial notice for their tender and thoughtful beauty. Notwithstanding the subtractions we have pointed out, the entire volume has more than ordinary claims upon public sympathy and respect.

Highlands and Islands of the Adriatic, including Dalmatia, Croatia, and the Southern Provinces of the Austrian Empire. By A. A. Paton. Chapman & Hall.

THOSE excellent persons who luxuriate in the grievances which warrant complaint of the time present, and who are used to bemoan the diffusion and cheapness of literature as destroying its solidity, must be puzzled, we apprehend, by the books of travels which have recently appeared. The names of such thorough-going scholars and enthusiasts as Wilkinson, Dennis, and Layard, must be so many mortifications to their resolute

faith in the progress of flimsy handicraft. So unusual, in truth, has been the concourse of worshipful travellers, that we have had, of necessity, to keep waiting some belonging to the fraternity with whom the public might well desire an early and cordial meeting. Among these is Mr. Paton. His book must not aspire to be ranked with the remarkable ones just adverted to; but it is obviously the production of a cheerful, intelligent writer—well prepared for travel, possessing many sympathies, and sensitive to knowledge and to novelty. Next to seeing for ourselves Pola with its amphitheatre, Sebenico with its cathedral, Ragusa with its fortress, Spalato with its Palace of Diocletian—next to being for ourselves confronted with the strange potentate of Montenegro, or for ourselves tasting Maraschino at its "pristine spring,"—stands the pleasure of enjoying all these sights and sensations under the auspices of an agreeable writer such as our author. A transcript of his third, fourth, and fifth pages will satisfy the reader that we do not exaggerate in our recommendation. Mr. Paton took Diligence, at Carlstadt, in Hungary, in Nov. 1846.—

"Just before dawn, on the third morning after leaving Carlstadt, I woke up in the diligence, which had stopped to change horses at the post-house on the top of the Vellebitch; my limbs were numb with cold, in spite of great coat and lined cloak, and a keen wind saluted me as I stepped out of the carriage in deep snow. The chill, clear, starry heavens enabled me to see that I had gained the summit of a pass bordered with pines and surmounted with pinnacles of rock; and a square block of stone on my left attracting my attention, I held the lantern to it, and read on one side, 'Croatia,' and on the reverse, 'Dalmatia.' * * * Seeing a dull red charcoal fire gleaming through the window of a hut on my right, in which sat a watch of frontier guards, I entered and warmed myself, the conductor preferring to make the descent by daylight. As I re-entered the coach, the blue diamond-studded night had disappeared as a dream; and as the dawn approached, the silver icicles glistened on the dark-green branches of the mountain-pines. As we traversed the summit of the ridge, one snowy peak after another was lighted up with the break of day; and a turn of the road at length bringing us to that side of the Vellebitch which fronted the Adriatic, Dalmatia, in all her peculiarity, lay stretched before me. Here was no tantalizing descent of long narrow valleys, as in Italy. To the eye, the transition from the world of the North to the world of the South was immediate. Like the traveller who, after the painful gyrations of a high tower, emerges from darkness to the bird's-eye view of a new and curious city, I had the whole space, from the hill-tops to the distant islands, before me at a single glance. A long, deep gash in the land, parallel with the mountain, was the Canal of the Morlacks, a gulf of the sea, like a wide river flowing between its banks. Zara, Bencovatz, Nona, plain and mountain, city and sea,—were all before me. The sun rose apace; the mist cleared away from the distant island capes; the snow died a lingering death as we sunk to the temperature of the genial Adriatic; and the wind, combatted as a bitter enemy an hour ago, blew a gentle truce, and was invited as a friend. Yesterday morning, on awaking, the carriage-wheels were rattling over a road crisped with hard frost; and the pointed spire of a Croatian church rose, clear and distinct, out of the grey and crimson distance. Obrovazzo, a small town, to which we now descended, had the campanile of the south of the Alps; and in the domestic architecture of the town I at once recognized the Venetian character. * * * But the greatest curiosity was the road by which I had effected my descent. The Vellebitch, instead of sloping down to the coast, breaks off with an abruptness that borders on the precipitous, and must have tasked the energies of the most scientific road-maker. With the experience of the Simplon, the St. Gotthard, and the others leading over the Alps, the Vellebitch is the most perfect of all, and, viewed from below the road, appears like a gigantic staircase cut in the face of a rock. One great blank in the landscape to

which we descended was a scantiness of vegetation: the air was warm, the colours clear, brilliant, and southern; but the scattered figs and olives, the red earth mingled with rock, and the starved shrubbery, formed a counterpoise that told me not to forget my native verdure-clad north. Obrovazzo is situated on the lips of a yawning land-crack, through which the Rhine or Danube would have space enough to flow, but the intense green of the motionless waters above that there is more of salt sea than of fresh water to float those barges that lay along the quay. Nothing in Christian Europe is so picturesque as the Dalmatian peasant's dress; for he wears not the trowsers or pantaloons and round hat of Austria or Hungary, but a dress analogous to that of the old Turk. Tall, muscular, and vigorous, with red fez on his head, and huge pistols in his belt, we recognize the Slav of the Adriatic,—the brother of the Serb in blood, in language, and also, to a considerable extent, in religion; but while the varnish of civilization in Serbia is German and new, here it is much older, and has come from Venice. The graceful dialect which Goldoni has immortalized is as indigenous in the Roman races of Dalmatia as in Venice; and the High Street of Obrovazzo looks like a dry alley in one of the islands of the Lagoon, or of some of those neighbouring villages of terra firma with which the pencil of Canaletti has so charmingly familiarized us.

To a tourist who cares about history, scenery, manners, or art, the district into which we are thus pleasantly introduced is rich in objects of attraction. Indeed, there are few, if any, of Mr. Paton's chapters which would not yield a quotation. The following, for instance, will be found especially tempting, by all familiar with the sights, names, and associations of Venice.—

"Five hours from Lesina is Curzola, the most beautiful of all the islands of Dalmatia; approached by a natural canal formed by the island on one side and the peninsula of Sabioncello on the other, a steep of Bosphorus on a grander and ruder scale, with steep mountains on both sides, every creek and headland covered with waving woods and verdant shrubbery. As we approach the town of Curzola, each zone is marked by its appropriate colour: the warm brown of cultivation basks at the water's edge; the wooded region rises above; and a waving line of grey bare rocks crests the whole. Turning the last headland, we saw the town of Curzola before us in the form of a triangle or pyramid, edged by some of those huge old round towers which the modern art of war has rendered obsolete, the campanile of the ex-cathedral forming the appropriate apex. At the landing-place, and just outside the walls, is the loggia, an edifice very inferior to that of Lesina as seen from without; but the prospect seen through its columns by these within, gave the Curzolans a council-chamber painted by Nature herself in her happiest mood. The massive towers and walls were built in 1420; but the gate was, as the inscription tells us, erected in 1643 by a scion of the house of Grimani, he being then Provveditor-general at Zara. Grimani! thought I to myself, as I recollected the palace of that name from the Grand Canal, and I again stepped back to look at it; but the profuse ornaments of the sei cento with which it was covered, showed that the age of Balistrari Longhena had followed that of Sammicelli—a decline from what preceded, but still high above what followed in other parts of Europe. The town of Curzola is regularly built; a street runs up to the Piazza, and down on the other side, all the other streets being at right angles. On one side of the Piazza, in the elevated centre of the town, is the Palace of the Venetian Governors; and on the other is the ex-Cathedral, with mediocre pictures, and a Turkish cannon-ball embedded in the wall since an attack on the town in 1571. Curzola was formerly the seat of a Bishop; but Dalmatia, which, under the Venetians, had thirteen episcopal sees, has now only six. Close by is the palace of a certain Signor Arneri, the principal landed proprietor of Curzola, to which I was taken by a gentleman of the town to whom I was recommended. The palace itself, of Venetian Gothic, is sadly dilapidated; but such an edifice as a Contarini or Gradenigo might have dwelt in. A superb bronze knocker, representing a Hercules swinging two lions by their tails, adorned the door; and entering the court-yard, the marble draw-well, on which was cut three pears, the arms of

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the family, and the minutely fretted windows of the crumbling halls, reminded me that Curzola had for years supplied the timber for the wooden walls of Venice, and had been another favourite station of her fleets. Signor Arneri, a polite gentleman, with white neckcloth and broad-brimmed hat, did the honours with the courtesy of the old school. 'These three years you see on the wall,' said he, 'are the arms of my family. Perussich was our name, when, in the earlier part of the fifteenth century, my ancestors built this palace; so that, you see, I am a Dalmatian. All the family, fathers, sons, and brothers, used to serve in the fleets of the Republic; but the hero of our race was Armiero Perussich, whose statue you see there, who fought, bled, and died at the siege of Candia, whose memory was honoured by the Republic, and whose surviving family was liberally pensioned; so his name became the name of our race. We became Arneri, and ceased to be Perussich.' I spoke of the knocker, as remarkable for its size as for its beauty; and observed, that it would be rather hazardous to put so tempting a piece of *virtù* on a London door; so, going to the door again, he, with a smile of enjoyment, lifted the head of one of the lions, and letting it whack against the door, so as to make the court ring again, he resumed: 'I have been offered its weight in silver; but we have no fears of thieves in Curzola: if I lock it up in my cabinet I cease to enjoy the use of it. If you are curious on such matters,' added he, 'come here;' and, leading me through a dark passage to his library, he showed me an antique inkstand and sand-box, in the form of hounds scratching their ears, and various other articles said to be real antiques. Thanking the old gentleman for his attentions, we retraced our steps, and saw in the wall of the house opposite a relic of middle-age manners—a large iron ring, which, being grasped by a criminal, gave him immunity from arrest. The sobriety, or suburb of Curzola with the walls, is kept alive by ship-building; and being situated on the neck of land that connects the town with the island, it has wharfs to both bays. The boats of Curzola are still renowned on the Adriatic; and all those of the Company of the Austrian Lloyds are built here. Timber and labour are both cheap, and vegetation is rapid; for no sooner is a wood thinned than it grows again with great rapidity. Here I saw some of the Amazons of the opposite peninsula of Sabioncello, selling produce,—tail, strong women, with masculine features, and a high head-dress of straw, with a brown flounce. All the husbands are absent at sea, and the women do most of the rustic work—plough, harrow, and thrash; and their villages are composed almost solely of women, old men, and boys. The women have consequently most robust bodies, and a resolute stolid temperament: so that Dr. Menis, the learned *proto-medicus* of Zara, believes that the fable of the Amazons must have arisen from a community living under similar conditions; defence of their goods and chattels being occasionally necessary during the absence of their husbands. * * Passing the suburb, I found myself in the country; and never did I see such luxuriant and variegated shrubbery. The fragrant myrtle perfumed the air; and the contrast in the colours of the vegetation, the beauty of the flowers, and the novelty of the fruits, made Curzola look like one great conservatory, with its blossoms uncovered to perpetual spring. The improbabilities of romance were realized; and I seemed to tread one of those *isles* unseen by human eye, where some fair benignant spirit dwelt in a secluded world of bloom and verdure. Half-an-hour off, on a high conical eminence, is the sainted convent of Saint Anthony, approached by a straight flight of steps the best part of a quarter of a mile in steep ascent, bordered on each side by a lofty avenue of cypresses: planted one hundred and eighty years ago, they are now in their full growth and majesty. I stood entranced at the foot of the steps, and enjoyed, at the extreme top of the thick verdure-fenced vista, a ruined arch, picturesquely delineated against the blue sky. When I completed the ascent, and looked backwards, my admiration increased on seeing the azure creek, the yellow bulwarks of Curzola, and the towering ridges of the opposite mountains, enframed by this noble avenue, every tree of which rose to the height of the highest ship-masts. Higher up, on a point of rock, no longer in the line of avenue, but commanding a general view, the whole region of indented creeks and rugged coasts, town and suburbs,

with swelling dome and tower-knit battlements, and the unruined waters, asleep amidst the slopes of the canal,—formed a prospect so lovely, that Curzola might be called the Emerald Isle of the Adriatic."

We skip the pages devoted to Montenegro—having recently gone over the ground in company with Sir Gardner Wilkinson; but a walk within the strongholds of Ragusa yields a good deal to those whose—

eyes make pictures when they are shut, as Coleridge sang.—

"General Reiche, then commanding in Ragusa, having had the kindness to ask his Platz Lieutenant to show me round the walls and military establishments, I went next morning to his office, and found an intelligent middle-aged man writing at a desk in a well-warmed room. Germans from the north of the Alps keep themselves too well heated for an English taste; but, on the other hand, nowhere did I ever suffer so much from cold as in these two first days in Ragusa. No room in the hotel had a fireplace; but, according to the custom of the town, I dressed myself in the Ragusa manner, shivering with cold; for although the thermometer was below zero, the only source of heat was a miserable earthenware pot of charcoal, which warmed only my hands. In this office the heat was up to seventy-five Fahrenheit at least. For a moderate climate such as that of Ragusa, our open English fires would be preferable to this intense German heat. Accompanied by a sergeant, carrying a great bunch of keys, we now began our journey in cold clear sunshine, and about a hundred yards off, the man opening a door in the wall, we entered and went up a high flight of steps, and then another flight, and then another, and at length stood on the parapet. The walls of Ragusa have no resemblance to a modern fortification, with bastions and fosses making a mathematical figure; but are those of a rock-built city, being of enormous height, thickness, and solidity, rising irregularly, from the irregularities of the locality, interspersed with great towers, and looking just like one of those cities one sees in the prints of old Bibles. Looking over the rampart, I saw the sea playing against the base of the rock; looking outwards, I saw the clear expanse of the Adriatic in the intensest of blue, the bare bold promontories of the coast to the south and the north jutting into the sea, and the intervening recesses filled with vegetation. If I turned from the sea to the town at my feet, I saw an irregular surface of reddish-tiled and yellow-walled houses, with green Venetian blinds, from out of which rose a couple of blue lead cupolas, and the edifices of the Piazza. The lieutenant was for walking on, but I stopped a moment; the music of the murmuring waters, the painting of the line of coast, and the architecture of the town formed such a union, that if a thousand troubles had infested my brain so fair a prospect must have beaten them off. We now continued the tour of the walls, the sea far below us on our left, and the streets of the town also far below us on our right; but soon we came to a large building on an elevation within the walls, no longer below us, but on the same level: this was the barracks, containing 1,200 Hungarians, the garrison of the town; so we entered to see the establishment. A thin cake of ice was on a little pool in the courtyard, which, from the high building, the sun could not reach, and the sergeant said that it was the first that had been seen for twelve years, which speaks for the mildness of the climate. Ascending a wide whitewashed staircase, we came to the barrack-room, a long gallery, furnished on each side with beds, above each of which was a shelf containing the knapsack, the hat, and the odds and ends of the soldier, and in the middle was a long black board for teaching reading and writing. It was the dinner-hour, and I had, just before entering, seen across the roofs of the houses the two mechanical figures in bronze strike their hammers twelve times on the bell of the Torre del Orologio, announcing the hour of mid-day. Each man had a basin of soup, a plate of boiled beef and vegetables, and his loaf of bread; and on tasting the soup, I pronounced it sufficiently strong and nourishing. The pay of the Austrian soldier is only two pence per day; so that he can indulge in no disorders, but almost all he needs is found him. How much better it would be with the British soldier if he had

less money for drink and the difference made up in healthy comforts! When we went down stairs we found ourselves on the ramparts again, and, ascending an outside flight of steps, I saw some red jackets hanging out to be aired on the wall, and some uncouth, dark-looking men in undress standing about. The uniform of the Hungarian regiment being white, with sky-blue light trousers, I asked what these red ones could be, and was informed that they belonged to the men I saw, who were the gypsy musicians of the regiment; so I entered into conversation with the sergeant about them, and he told me in answer to a question, that if they had any religion of their own they must keep it a secret, for they are entered as Catholics and attend Mass with the other soldiers. Their talent and aptitude for music is unquestionable; and before I left Ragusa I spent a most agreeable hour at the lodgings of the officer who takes charge of the music here,—for the regular band of the regiment consisting of forty performers was at Zara, and this was only a subordinate division,—but although they played several opera airs, it was evident that their favourite style was the waltz. Continuing our walk, we now went down, inside a long flight of steps, to the level of the town, and entered the canteen, in which were two soldiers drinking beer. A tall Moll Flagon looking woman was standing at the counter, with bottles, glasses, keys, and stores of pipe-clay, which showed that that article came out of the twopence a day. The woman looked alarmed at seeing an officer and a stranger enter with the two sergeants with keys (for the one carried the keys of the prison), and the two poor men drinking their beer were equally flurried, and, rising up, stood mechanically in a row, as if about to be marched off handcuffed; but it was soon seen that our motive was curiosity. From the canteen we went to the barrack-prison, which was a dark apartment, and as we entered, found the prisoners plucking sparrows for dinner, with all the feathers scattered on the floor. They were fourteen in number, and stood up in a row, some fettered and some not; as the garrison was altogether 1,400 strong, the prisoners formed one per cent; the usual offences being petty thefts from their comrades and insolence to their superiors. The rest of our promenade offered no circumstance worthy of a notice."

Chapters on history, manners, and literature succeeded: in which—allowing for the tinge of Della-Cruscanism so often contracted by those who yield themselves sympathetically to the spell of the South—Mr. Paton will be found always pleasant. We think it prudent, however, to receive *cum grano* his assurance (more enthusiastic than critical) that the "boisterous vigour of Ariosto, and the smoothness, the elegance, and completeness of Tasso, seem to mingle their alternate inspirations in" the verse of the Ragusan Homer whose life is sketched as follows.—

"Gondola was born in Ragusa on the 8th of January, 1588, when Philip of Spain was preparing his Invincible Armada for the invasion of England, and was educated by the Jesuits. At twenty years of age he devoted himself to the study of the law, and at thirty married a daughter of the house of Sorgo. The Illyrian dramas of Dorsich, Nale, and others, were then the favourite literature of Ragusa, and Gagliuffi thinks that, had the Ragusans persevered, they might have risen to the celebrity of the Spanish theatre; but the beauty of the 'Aminta' and the 'Pastor Fido' entirely turned the public taste. The favourite reading of Gondola was the 'Gerusalemme' of Tasso; his first youthful essays were pastoral dramas of no extraordinary merit, nor was it without a great deal of consideration that he undertook an epic poem. * * The choice of Gondola's subject seems, to our age, a strange one, if viewed without reference to the political situation of Ragusa, in the very century in which the Turks were the most hated, and in which our own Waller wrote his 'Presage of the Downfall of the Turkish Empire.' Gondola enthusiastically takes for his hero, Osman, who became Sultan in 1618, and after a variety of wars and amours, is imprisoned and beheaded. It was, therefore, entirely the events of the day that supplied Gondola with his matter. The Porte, in

the zenith of her military and political power, was, although the enemy of all Europe, then the protectress of Ragusa against Venice; and Osman, the antipathy of Christendom, is a daring hero in the eyes of the patriotic Ragusan. The war with Poland in 1621, the captivity of Korevsky as hostage in Constantinople, the disguise of his wife as a Hungarian boy to deliver him, the condition of all these countries, and a variety of episodes and adventures, concluding with the death of the Sultan, form the staple of the work. * * Gondola died in 1638 at fifty-one years of age; two of his sons fought in the Thirty-years War under Wallenstein, and the youngest died in 1682 in the supreme office of Rector of the Republic."

In a district so little known, we are prepared to find peculiarities of religious observance—as also proverbs, the form and phraseology of which are new. The locality of the following is Spalato.—

"Lent closed with the ceremonies of Holy Week in the temple-cathedral; its darkness illuminated with so many wax tapers, that the sculptures, intended by Diocletian's architect to be seen by twilight, looked rough and unshapen. One of the evening sermons I attended was not preached by the Capuchin monk, but by another priest. * * The pith of his sermon lay in a history of the parts of the body of Mary Magdalene; the eyes that had allured men looked on the cross, the long hair that had attracted their admiration dried our Saviour's feet, and so on, with nose, ears, hands, feet, &c., in such a dry catalogue style, that had I not been in a place of worship, such a deliberate passage from the sublime to the ridiculous must have made me smile. * * While we were talking, a loud rustling and crackling noise was heard, as if the choir was about to tumble down. This was a beating of many sticks against each other, called 'the flogging of Barabbas,' and is a relic of the mysteries of the middle ages. * * It was after sunset, on Good Friday, for during all the Holy Week there were daily services in the temple-cathedral, that I formed part of the crowd in the Piazza del Tempio. The sky was clear and star-stud; all the windows overlooking the Piazza were illuminated; ranges of men, clad in white, stood each with a thick wax torch in hand ready to move in procession; and the moon shining through the Corinthian colonnade, athwart the sphinx, glistened on the bayonets of the troops which were to form part of the procession. At length the Bishop, preceded by boys bearing censers, was seen to advance under a canopy borne by four nobles, or gentlemen, and descend the steps, after which the whole procession was put in motion. The most remarkable sight was that of the penitential sinners, who, dressed in black, masked, and barefooted, carried on their shoulders heavy wooden crosses, of such weight and thickness of beam as might have been used in the time of the Romans. All round the town went the procession, and returned to the same spot, some of the penitents, with their hands tied to the extremities of the heavy cross-beams, bending and groaning under their burdens; but all so veiled and masked that no one could tell who or what they were. The festivities and hospitalities of Easter enabled me to see more of the domestic manners of the nation. The Easter-lamb, roasted whole, is served with wild asparagus of a peculiarly strong and bitter flavour. The wines are all native Dalmatian; curious old family silver-gear adorned the table; and toasts and anecdotes of days of yore and time-honoured Dalmatian heroes, all seasoned with native proverbs, had a strong national character which delighted me. I found a collection of these proverbs in a native magazine; and I presume a few may not be out of place. 'He that is prodigal of thanks is avaricious of gratitude.'—'When the wolf is fatigued, even his tail is heavy.'—'He that seeks to act gloriously must not act dexterously.'—'When you steal another man's hen, tie your own by the leg.'—'Every one praises the rose while it gives a pleasant odour.'—'When misfortunes come, pause not to weep, but hasten to change.'—'The heads fullest of brains are often the most liable to extravagance.'—'Choose your wife by your ears rather than your eyes.'"

The second volume of Mr. Paton's book is

more largely devoted to politics, &c. than the first; and seeing that the "loops and tangles" of the claims and prospects of the outlying provinces of the Austrian empire could not even by *Fairy Order's* self be unwound or laid out in lengths in a closing paragraph—it is alike needful and just to hand over this portion of our author's tour to the politicians. Enough has been said to recommend the book to the general reader,—in spite of an over-gaiety of style caused probably by the mistaken idea that it is better to "assume the virtue" of merriment than to be dull.

Letters of Eminent Persons addressed to David Hume. Blackwood & Sons.

This volume is a supplement—and in many respects an essential supplement—to the careful *Life of Hume* which Mr. Burton has recently compiled from the papers bequeathed by the nephew of the historian to the Royal Society of Edinburgh. The letters and papers in that collection throwing more immediate light on the life and studies of Hume were included by Mr. Burton in his larger work;—and the volume now before us drains the correspondence, we are told, of whatever might seem worthy of publication. It is at least satisfactory to be assured that Mr. Burton has left little or nothing for succeeding biographers to glean from the large body of documents in question,—and that the 'Life' and this supplementary volume contain everything material that the collection can add to Hume's own life or to the history of the period in which he lived.

The following interesting letter from Horace Walpole must find a place in Mr. Bentley's supplemental volume to his collected edition of 'Walpole's Letters.' The subjects touched upon are the depreciatory characters of Sir Philip Sidney and Lord Falkland which Walpole had given in his 'Royal and Noble Authors.'—

"Strawberry Hill, July 15, 1758.
"Sir,—It is impossible to trouble my Lady Hervey with transcribing what I wish to say in answer to your kind objections to a very few passages in my Catalogue: yet, as I cannot deny myself the pleasure, and, indeed, the duty of making some reply to such undeserved civilities from a gentleman of your abilities, you must excuse me, sir, if I take the liberty of addressing my letter directly to you. It is, I assure you, neither with vanity nor presumption; even your flattery, sir, cannot make me forget the distance between the author of the best History of England and a compiler of English writers. Were it known what countenance I have received from men of such talents as Mr. Hume and Sir David Dalrymple, I should with reason be suspected of partiality to Scotland. What I did say of your country, sir, was dictated by conviction, before the least selfishness or gratitude could have blemished me. I must premise, sir, that what I am going to say is not directly to defend what you criticise; it is rather an explanation which I owe to such criticisms, and to apologize for not correcting my work in consequence of your remarks; but unhappily for me, the greater part of your notes regard passages in pages already printed off for the future edition. I will touch them in order. I perceive by what you and others have said to me, sir, that the freedom I have taken with Sir Philip Sidney is what gives most offence: yet I think, if my words are duly weighed, it will be found that my words are too strong rather than my argument weak. I say, when we at this distance of time inquire what prodigious merits excited such admiration. What admiration? why, that all the learned of Europe praised him, all the poets of England lamented his death, the republic of Poland thought of him for their king. I allow Sir Philip great valour and, for some of his performances, good sense; but, dear sir, compare his talents with the admiration they occasioned, and that in no unlettered, no unpolished age, and can we at this distance help wondering at the vastness of his

character? Allowing as much sense to Sir Philip as his warmest admirers can demand for him, surely this country has produced many men of far greater abilities who have by no means met with a proportionate share of applause. It were a vain parade to name them,—take Lord Bacon alone, who, I believe, of all our writers, except Newton, is most known to foreigners, and to whom Sir Philip was a puny child in genius,—how far was he from attaining an equal degree of fame and honour? To say the truth, I attribute the great admiration of Sir Philip Sidney to his having so much merit and learning for a man of his rank.

Barnes enim forme sensus communis in illa Fortuna.

Indeed, sir, if your good sense and philosophy did not raise you above being blinded, I should suspect that you had conceived still more undeserved esteem, from the same surprise, for another author, who is the only one that, by being compared with Sir Philip Sidney, could make me think the latter a very great man. I have already thrown in a note to illustrate my argument, and to excuse myself to some gentlemen who thought that I had not paid attention enough to Sir Philip's 'Defence of Poesy'; but, whether one or two particular tracts are a little better or not than I have represented his general writings it does not affect the scope of my reasoning, the whole result of which is, as I said, that he was not a great man in proportion to his fame. I will not be equally diffuse in my defence of the character of Lord Falkland; the same kind of answer must serve for that too. The greatest part of page 194 was intended as an answer to your objection, sir, as I apprehended it would be made. When the king originally, and the patriots subsequently, had drawn upon their country all the violences of a civil war, it might be just abstractedly, but I think was not right for the consequences it might have, to consider that the king was become the party aggrieved. I cannot but be of opinion that assisting an oppressed king is, in reality, helping him to tyranny. It is the nature of man and power not to be content with being restored to their due and former rights. And however illegal and tyrannous the conduct of a victorious parliament may be, I should think it more likely to come to its rational senses than a victorious king,—perhaps mine are principles rather than arguments. On the coolest examination of myself and of the history of these times, I think I should have been one of the last to have had recourse to arms, because an encroaching prince can never take such strides as a triumphant one: but I should have been one of the last, too, to lay them down, for the reasons I have given you. As to the trifling affair of the clean shirt, it was Whitlocke, as I have quoted in page 195, and not Lord Clarendon, that mentioned it; and I was glad that it was Whitlocke, to show that I equally blamed the republican and royalist writers for thinking Lord Falkland of consequence enough to have every little circumstance relating to him recorded. For the transaction of the king and Glamorgan I must own, sir, you have helped me to a strong argument against the king which I had overlooked, as I had another, which I have mentioned in my new edition, though a fault not equally culpable, in my opinion,—the indulgences granted to the Catholics. If the argument I have proposed in the note, page 213, does not seem a strong one to you for the reality of Glamorgan's commission, I might use more words, but I fear without conveying more conviction. The reference to the General Dictionary was certainly wrong, though too late for me now to correct. Instead of vol. 3, page 359, I ought to have referred to vol. 10, page 76, where, if not a new or satisfactory account, is at least so long a discussion, that I should have thought myself unpardonable to repeat it, as I had nothing new to offer on either side of the question. But, sir, this is only a single and a slight mistake, in comparison of the many which I fear still remain. As my work has been so fortunate to find some favour, it would look like a boast to mention how rapidly it was compiled and composed; and I must waive my truest apology rather than plead it with an air of arrogance. But now, sir, though I can a little defend myself against myself, what sort of apology shall I use for the liberty I have taken with you? A liberty which you

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have reprimanded in the gentlest, though severest, manner by your gentle observations on a work so faulty as mine. When you allow that I am at all justifiable in mistaking your sense, I must not retract, and therefore I will only say that the words *conduct much more natural could not, however, procure Lord Halifax the character of integrity*, did seem to me to say that though his trimming more probably flowed from integrity than policy, yet it could not attain the reputation of the former. In general, too, I must own that you seemed to make him figure as a more considerable minister than I had thought him; for thus, sir, one compares one's own scanty and superficial reading with the study of an historian who has long and diligently weighed every circumstance. All men are not fortunate, like me, to write from slight knowledge, and then to be examined with the mildest good nature by men far more able and better informed. I am sensible, sir, that I have transgressed all bounds: I meant to thank you and to explain myself; instead of that I have wearied you, while I was amusing myself with the pleasure of talking to a man whose works I have so long admired.—I am, Sir, your much obliged and most obedient humble servant,

HOR. WALPOLE.

The following letters from Colonel Barré throw light on his history; and were unknown to Mr. Britton,—whose recent publication on 'Junius' has Barré for its hero.—

"Rochefort, August 3^d, 1764.

"Dear Hume,—When you joked me about my native country, as you was pleased to call it, I did not imagine that it was likely to produce any other good to me but a little amusement, and the pleasure of meeting you in Paris. However, since my arrival in this part of France, I find that an uncle of mine (younger, and only brother to my father) died lately, possessed of about ten thousand pounds sterling, which (as there was no will) has been very rapidly divided amongst a number of very distant relations, who supposed me dead. I don't know all the particulars as yet, but intend to set out for the very spot to-morrow morning early, and after getting all the information I can, I shall go to Bordeaux, where I shall state the whole affair to some able lawyer, and be directed by him how to proceed. Forgive me if I trouble you upon this occasion; you see it is a serious one. First, let me know what the law, custom, or court opinion is, as to the right of succession in an Englishman to an inhabitant of this country. Next, pray prepare yourself to support me with all your influence, if it comes to any trial. I only ask justice; but you'll perhaps tell me that I am very unconscionable. I would not have you speak of this, till I can write to you more fully; but, in the mean time, you may, perhaps, be able to send me some recommendation at Bordeaux, which may be of use to me in this affair: I mean in the law way. This will, probably, break through my proposed plan, and keep me longer at Bordeaux than I at first intended. However, the object is to me important. Indeed, if it had not been so, I should not have given you any trouble. Believe me most sincerely yours,

J. BARRÉ.

"Direct to me, at Messrs. Ainsley's, Bordeaux."

"Dear Hume,—I thank you for your last letter from Paris, which I received just as Smith and his wife, and L'Abbé Colbert were sitting down to dine with me at Bordeaux. The latter is a very honest fellow, and deserves to be a bishop; make him one if you can. I stated my case (or, rather, my father's) to a lawyer at Bordeaux, who thinks he has no right; and grounds his opinion upon several of the King's declarations; and, particularly upon one of the 27th of October, 1725. He makes the whole turn upon my grandfather's being a Protestant. This I have alleged (though without any positive proof) to be the case. May I beg of you to take some lawyer's opinion, at Paris, simply upon this case as I state it, viz.:—Barré dies in France about twenty-five years ago, leaving two sons, Peter and John; Peter went over to Ireland about the year 1720 or 22, young and unmarried, but afterwards married and settled there. John being upon the spot at the time of his father's death, divided the property very nearly as he thought proper. John dies in September, 1760, intestate and childless. Bonhommeau, a maternal uncle of his, takes possession of his estate as nearest heir. This Bonhommeau died in the month

following, and his whole fortune was divided between sixteen nephews or nieces, who stood in the same degree of relation to him as the deceased John Barré did. At the time of John's death it had been reported that Peter and his children were dead. Now, I wish to know what right Peter has to the estate of his brother John, considering the circumstances of his having left France, and his living so long in Ireland professing the Protestant religion, and whether that right is affected by his father being a Protestant. John was generally thought to be a Protestant, though his heirs contrived to have him buried as a Catholic. When you get an opinion, pray send it to Foley's, who forwards all my letters, and knows where to find me. Why will you triumph and talk of *plutôt couteur*? You have friends on both sides. Smith agrees with me in thinking that you are turned soft by the *délices* of a French court, and that you don't write in that nervous manner you was remarkable in the more northern climates. Besides, what is still worse, you take your politics from your Elliots, Rigbys, and Selwyns!!! A bad politician tells me just now that we are to have war. Impossible. Adieu.

"Toulouse, Sept. 4."

Of the fifty-three correspondents of Hume whose letters are included by Mr. Burton in the present volume, Lady Hervey (Molly Lepel) is by far the most agreeable and entertaining. She is not equal to Lady Mary Wortley Montague—but she is infinitely superior to Mrs. Carter or Mrs. Montagu without laying claim to a tithe of their pretensions. With all her partiality for foreigners, she was not blind to the follies of Rousseau.—

"Old Windsor, the 23^d July, 1766.

"After the letter you showed me, Sir, and the account you gave me, when you was here, of that madman, Rousseau, nothing can surprise me from that quarter; but it does worse, for it alarms me: his frenzy is grown to such a height that I really think him dangerous; and that, for his own sake and that of others, 'tis full time he should be locked up. Detestation for his malevolence, and compassion for his madness, make a sort of odd mixture in one's sensations for him; and both prevent one's laughing at the ridiculous as well as absurd idea he has got about the conspiracy of the triumvirate he supposes united to hurt him. You have really done by this country, in importing him, what the late Lord Hillsborough did by Ireland, in carrying there the noxious animals and insects which were not the produce of that country; and, if Jean Jacques increases and multiplies here, you will have a great deal to answer for. I wrote Madame Geoffrin an account of all I learnt about him when I saw you last, for I think the world should be informed of what he is capable, that no other humane, kind-hearted, generous Hume (if there is another in the world) should be liable to be so treated and so reviled by such an ungrateful malevolent madman as he is."

There are in this volume two letters from Allan Ramsay the painter, which fully justify the partiality of Johnson and the praise of Sir Joshua Reynolds who called him the most sensible of painters. Ramsay seems to have had Fuseli's learning without his pedantry and arrogance of manner.

Duodecimo; or, the Scribbler's Progress. An Autobiography, written by an Insignificant Little Volume, and published likewise by Itself. Newby.

THE above is as true as if it was not a title-page. The volume is insignificant to the last degree:—and "more's the pity," since the idea is not a bad one. How, for instance, could "The Doctor" have gambolled betwixt "a tall copy" and a "diamond classic"? or taking up the robe of *Montesinos*, how could he, with angry and eloquent sincerity, have deduced the World's *finitis* from the appearance of the Constable who took up cheap literature!—Or fancy Hood, who made 'Copy-right *versus* Copy-wrong' a piece of pleading as diverting as if Rabelais had been the advocate, setting

Martha Penny to discuss the Poets as issued for railway circulation, or *Miss Belinda Pugsley* to sentimentalize over the Halfpenny Pocket Romancers. There are a score of ways in which this trifle might have been made amusing and profitable:—it is much to say that the author has avoided them all. The reader shall be treated to the solitary pleasant page which we have found:—a passage from a sort of idyllic contest or debate among books, in which *Mistress Rundell* gets leave to speak.—

"I beg pardon, ladies and gentlemen," said the dame, "if my voice quivers a little, I am not used to speak in such a large assembly, having usually only the cook and my mistress to confer with at a time—so that I may be pardoned for getting into a little bit of a stew."—"That smacks of the shop a little I think," interrupted Joe Miller.—"Silence—silence, order—order," cried all together. "Turn him out—turn him out."—"By your leave Mr. Miller," resumed the receipt-book, "I will not detain you long—I don't know, what these trumpety gentlemen (I don't include you Mr. Miller—you are worth a dozen of them, though you do interrupt me sometimes) I don't know I say, what these poor poor creatures here mean by pretending to hold me in contempt—I should be glad to learn the names of any three volumes of them all, which can show a single paragraph as well worth reading as my receipt for chicken pie—or the mixed punch, with a spoonful of guava jelly stirred in. A parcel of rubbishy, wishy-washy blockheads that have no more relish or flavour about them than an apple tart without a quince in it. They may quarrel as long as they like for what I care—I have gone through sixty-seven editions already, and furnished materials for the best works of my kind that are extant; Udo and Soyer not excepted. When they can do half as much, they may begin to think of turning up their noses at me. Receipt-book indeed! I think their composition smacks of the receipt-book enough. To make an historical novel—Take a volume of Hume or Smollett—cut out a few scraps of incident, add a young heroine, with blue eyes, which should be rubbed with an onion and strained through a fine muslin handkerchief, and a little passion quite done to rags, add your hero, leave out anything like salt or pepper,—put them into an octavo dish, mix and serve. This is the same unvarying thing over and over again—while I can show myself to be "augmented and improved by the addition of more than nine hundred new receipts suited to the present state of the art of cookery." Ask Mr. Murray if I cannot.—What effect, beyond making people yawn, can such things have, except on the nerves of a milliner's miss? She perhaps may get up an occasional whimper—whereas I have not a single page which will not make a duke's, aye, or an emperor's mouth water."

The above mirth is something of the smallest; and yet it is the only sparkle we have discovered in this same 'Duodecimo.'

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

Sand and Canvas: a Narrative of Adventures in Egypt, with a Sojourn among the Artists in Rome. By Samuel Bevan.—Mr. Bevan's title will have prepared the reader for the sketches of a dashing and careless Rambler, with whom the dash and the carelessness largely help "the show" made by his pen-and-ink pictures.—He took service under Lieut. Waghorn, without having any idea of the real nature of his duties,—hurried out to Alexandria, leaving his credentials behind him,—packed up and despatched certain cargoes of gentle and simple travellers across the Isthmus; and when the Overland Conveyance Company was transferred to other parties dashed into the Café Lepri at Rome and made himself at home among the painters there, with the merriest nonchalance possible—sketching, masquerading, joining in public banquets and practical jokes, just as if he had been cradled under an easel and taught obedience by a maul-stick. The random high spirits of this book give salt to the "sand" and colour to the "canvas." Since bodies so elastic as Mr. Bevan describes himself to be can neither be expected to rise high nor to dive deep, the idea of preparation or

philosophy would become absolutely burlesque were either demanded from the wanderings of such a sprightly tourist as our author: whose book, accordingly, is one to be read—as Lady Morgan once pleasantly put it—"running or dancing," to be reviewed with a single flourish of the pen, then thrown by and forgotten.

The Compliments of the Season; or, How to Give an Evening Party. By Piers Shafton.—It might have been thought that the law of this "momentous question" had been already laid down by Mr. Thackeray, Mr. Albert Smith, and other philosophers and statisticians of "Mirth's crew." But Mr. Shafton appears to hold a different opinion,—and he states the case yet once again, for the benefit of ambitious wives and long-suffering husbands. More need not be said to characterize this New Year's trifle:—save that it is illustrated by etchings and woodcuts which are intended to be droll.

Trials and Triumphs; or, the Singular Adventures of Fred. Hamilton. By the Rev. John Young, M.A.—After scolding heartily in his preface at the corruptness of "the fulsome trash" accepted for light literature now-a-days, the Rev. John Young proceeds solemnly to add to the heap of trumpery for the ab-use of "the young" by a contribution of rare badness. It is really a "trial" to think that such tales should be put forth for the mystification of our children:—and we must warn all parents against the specimen under condemnation as widely and emphatically as language enables us to do.

Don Quixote Versified. This forms a portion of the 'Broad Sheet Library,' and is executed by the diligent metricist who has already turned into stanzas Bunyan's 'Pilgrim's Progress' and 'Telemachus.' In days like these, when verse is at a discount, the boldness, at any rate, may be admired of the adventurer who seeks his market in issuing a monthly quantity of metre, rewriting in this unpopular form the world's master-pieces of prose. Nothing daunted, however, our versifier pours forth his doggerel stanzas with easy fluency,—trusting to the inherent interest of his theme, and never caring to mystify it by the slightest attempt at poetic adornment.

Calculating Cubes. By J. S. Ryffel.—These are cubes, of differently coloured sets, to count with—designed to facilitate the process to children. The peculiarity seems to be that the different colours facilitate exemplification of those parts of a whole to which it is necessary to direct attention as parts.

To the Operatives of Great Britain on Life Assurance. By A. Peck.—Rather too evidently intended for life assurance in general and "our office" in particular. But shoes are useful, even though a man is first tempted into them by a shoemaker.

The National Debt and Public Funds. By Justin Brenan.—The proper notice,—to save us trouble—was written for us at the back of the title-page. "This first successful attempt—for it can indisputably claim that title—to render the National Debt and public funds generally intelligible. * * * Thanking the author all the same, we would rather say in our own words that the book is clear as far as it goes. But if, for instance, in the chapter on Exchequer Bills, which we selected for particular examination, it had been stated how it is that they are at a premium or a discount as the case may be, it would have been clearer.

Map of the Gold Regions of California. Compiled from Geographical Surveys. By James Wyld.—Following, as usual, close in the current of geographical interest, Mr. Wyld has published a map of the strange region suddenly redeemed from the solitude of ages to be the theme of all tongues and a place of pilgrimage for the restless spirits of the world. Here has the precious metal been lying broadcast and unregarded in the wilderness, while in the narrow spaces where men crowd and congregate the hunt after it has been the origin of all social marvels, and all social crimes have been enacted for its smallest coin. In Mr. Wyld's map the districts that have as yet yielded gold to the new seekers are marked in the alluring colour of their own produce,—and they are mere dots and patches on a vast territory. The stream of adventure that has set in towards California must flow for many a year ere the treasure-seekers shall have turned up the whole of the great field every inch of which is coloured in their imaginations with the same suggestion.

The London and Provincial Medical Directory, for 1849—has its accustomed information on matters relating to its speciality—arranged on an improved plan.

*The History of the Jews of Spain and Portugal—*with complete Translations of all the Laws made respecting them during their long Establishment in the Iberian Peninsula. By E. H. Lindo.—We have no separate history of the Spanish and Portuguese Jews; though Basnage and Jost in their general histories, and Milman in his Abridgment, have given a brief account of their learning and sufferings. There is room, therefore, for such a volume as Mr. Lindo has written. He seems to have given considerable attention to the subject, and has availed himself of his access to ancient Spanish MSS. For the information which he has thus gathered, and for the publication of the laws and edicts that refer to the Jews, he deserves the thanks of the historian. There is perhaps enough, too, of the tragical to attract the general reader. The literary execution of the work, however, is very indifferent. Style there is none,—nor perhaps is it necessary; but grammatical accuracy and intelligibility are indispensable. The following are specimens (taken at random) of the want of these.—"Their history (of the Jews, namely,) from the high position they held in those countries is so connected with the histories of Spain and Portugal, that many events in the histories of those kingdoms are necessary for its elucidation: therefore there will be found in the following pages circumstances recorded that apparently do not belong to Jewish history," p. v. Again, after quoting a charge made against the Portuguese Jews of fraudulent trading, he says, "As to the assertion of some of the councillors, fearing the treachery of the Jews, universal history shows that it was unfounded and untrue. . . . As to getting wealth by fraudulent means, in the History of Portugal they are not accused as in other countries of usury in any one instance," p. 321. The charge is, that they were guilty of fraud, and the answer is that they were innocent of usury,—or, rather, that in the History of Portugal they are not accused of it. What the assertion is which is referred to in the first part of the paragraph it is impossible to gather from the sentence itself; and we suspect that the recognizances of "Universal History" (the only witness by the by competent to prove a negative) must be forfeited, as she is not likely to appear. Nor does Mr. Lindo record the honours of the Hebrews with more elegance than he employs in defending them. "The only disability," says he, "the Jews are now under in Great Britain is that they are not yet admitted by law to sit in Parliament, though Baron L. de Rothschild at the last election was chosen a member for the city of London, which was recognized by a majority of the House of Commons," p. 349. What it is which the House recognized it is impossible from this sentence to tell. In fact, they "recognized by a majority" neither the city nor the election; but the principle that it was desirable to change so much of our present law as requires of all members an oath or declaration on "the faith of a Christian." In a word, we thank Mr. Lindo for his facts, which are peculiarly seasonable; and recommend his readers to have always at hand a few disinfecting extracts of pure English from Prescott, or Irving, or Southey, or Scott. The neglect of this precaution may make necessary some less agreeable remedies.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

Altar (The), by the Author of 'The Cathedral,' 12mo. 5s. cl.
Bentley's Cat. Lib. No. VII. Parthol's 'Remarkable Characters,' 2s. 6d.
Blunt's (J.) The Shipmaster's Assistant, royal 8vo. 30s. sheep.
Bohn's Scientific Library, Humboldt's 'Cosmos,' 2 vols. 7s. cl.
Bible Scenes, Third Series, 'Hymn of Moses,' royal 16mo. 2s. 6d. cl.
Brooks's (J. T.) Four Months in California, post 8vo. 9s. 6d. cl.
Champney's (M. V.) Images, 4th edition, 12mo. 2s. 6d. cl.
Chalmers's (Dr. T.) Sermons, Posthumous Works, Vol. VI. 10s. 6d.
Coutanceau's (L.) French Grammar, 12mo. 4s. cl.
Cunningham's (Rev. J.) Christ receiving Sinners, 3s. 2d. cl.
Dod's (C.) Parliamentary Companion, 1849, royal 32mo. 4s. 6d. cl.
Drake's (Rev. S.) The Wallacestone Reformer, 12mo. 2s. cl.
Etheridge's (J. W.) Apostolical Acts and Epistles, 12mo. 7s. 6d. cl.
Everard's (E.) Preparatory Latin Grammar, 12mo. 1s. 6d. cl.
Finch's Hints on Frenching, by Fenou, 3s. 2d. cl.
Forbes's Six Months' Service in the African Blockade, 7s. 6d. cl.
Gaulier's (A.) Familiar Geography, 12th edition, square, 3s. cl.
Hunt's (Leigh) A Book for a Corner, 2 vols. crown 8vo. 12s. cl.
James's (G. P. R.) The String of Pearls, 6s. 3s. 6d. bs.
Kelly's (W. K.) History of the Year 1848, 6s. 6d. cl.
Lloyd's (J.) The English Country Gentleman, crown 8vo. 2s. cl.
Locke's Essay on the Human Understanding, 3rd edition, 8vo. 6s. 6d.
Marshall's Index Ready Reckoner, post 8vo. 2s. 6d. cl.
Mackay's (A.) The Western World, 3 vols. post 8vo. 31s. 6d. cl.
McClure's (H. M.) Basket of Fragments, new ed. 6s. 3s. 6d. cl.
Muller's (J.) A Capital of Nooning, 12mo. 1s. 6d. cl.
Morell's (J. D.) The Philosophy of Religion, 8vo. 12s. cl.
Moore's (G.) Man and his Motives, 2nd edition, crown 8vo. 8s. cl.
Muller's (J.) Physiology of the Senses, by Baily, 8vo. 7s. 6d. cl.
Muller's (J.) Physiology of Generation, 8vo. 7s. 6d. cl.

Nelson's (Admiral) Life of, by Pettigrew, 2 vols. 8vo. 36s. cl.
Noel's (Hon. and Rev. Baptist) The Christian Faith, 8s. 6d. cl.
Pascal's Miscellaneous Writings, by Pearce, crown 8vo. 1s. 6d. cl.
Pascal's Provincial Letters, by Pearce, crown 8vo. 1s. 6d. cl.
Puff's (Rev. J.) Memoirs, by his Son, 8vo. 12s. 6d. cl.
Puddicombe's (J.) Last Words; or, Truth of Jesus, 2nd ed. 8s. 6d. cl.
Raybird (W. and H.) On the Agriculture of Suffolk, 8vo. 10s. 6d. cl.
Schiller and Körner's Correspondence, by Simpson, 3 vols. 21s. cl.
Some Thoughts on Natural Theology, 8vo. 6s. 6d. cl.
Smith's (W. H.) Canadian Gazetteer, 8vo. 10s. cl.
Stephen's (H.) Book of the Farm, Pt. II. 12s. 6d. 2nd ed.; 3rd Vol. L. 12s. 6d. cl.
Thackeray's (W.) Vanity Fair, new edition, 8vo. 10s. 6d. cl.
Thackeray's (W.) The Great Hogarty Diamond, crown 8vo. 7s. 6d. cl.
Tooth Ache Imagined (The) by Mayhew, square, 1s. 6d. bs.
Word to the Wise; or, Hints on Expression, 12mo. 1s. cl. 2nd ed.

THE ARCTIC EXPEDITIONS.

WE stated in our last number, when recording that the Herald had returned from Behring's Straits, having heard no tidings of the Erebus and Terror, that the duty of searching for those ships devolved on the Plover. This vessel, as our readers may remember, was despatched from England under the direction of Commander Moore with instructions to proceed to Panama, where she was to be met by the Herald, and the two ships were to push on to Behring's Straits, "and should arrive there about the 1st of July."

It appears from despatches received from Commander Moore that the expectations which were entertained of the Plover making Behring's Straits at the above period cannot have been realized; for on the 8th of July she had only reached Callao, from which port she was to sail immediately for Behring's Straits, touching for provisions at the Sandwich Islands. Being a remarkably dull sailer, it is hardly possible that the Plover could have reached the entrance to Behring's Straits before the early part of November; long before which period the Arctic Seas are ice-bound. Thus, the intention, as expressed in the official instructions, of wintering the Plover off the North American coast, and of sending her boats on exploring expeditions in the autumn of 1848 and early in the present season, is completely frustrated; and as the Herald left Behring's Straits on the 2nd of October, it is manifest that she could not have met with the Plover in that locality.

It will be seen by the foregoing that it is premature to arrive at the conclusion that the Expedition under Sir John Franklin has failed in making considerable progress towards Behring's Straits. All that we know is that the Expedition had not cleared the Straits on the 2nd of October, on which day the Herald left for the southward.

We may mention that Commander Moore whilst dwelling strongly on the wretched sailing qualities of his ship, adds that she is a remarkably good sea-boat.

BRITISH MUSEUM CATALOGUE.

THE question of your correspondent "A Lover of Old Books"—"Which do men of research most want to do, to hunt a subject or an author?"—is to the point: and nothing short of a consideration of this quality in unity will furnish the great desideratum.

It is easy to find a book of which we know the exact title by an alphabetical list of author's names; but how great is the difficulty when the book needed comprehends the labours of two or three authors! Take, for example, any of the extensively illustrated scientific voyages to which the naturalist has occasion to refer,—where the botany of the Expedition is by one writer, the zoology by a second, and the geology by a third: who would think of looking for such a work under the name of the ship's captain? And the difficulty of finding the scattered memoirs and papers in the Transactions of foreign societies, notwithstanding that they have been collected together under the head of "Academies," is exceedingly troublesome.

To remedy this, I beg of the librarian to undertake for the sixteen miles of volumes in the British Museum what Linnaeus did for the green herbs and moving things of the earth and waters. Reduce the present unsystematized inventory into a state of comparative order by the introduction of a double system of reference,—just as the great author of the 'Systema Naturæ' made the individuals of the animal and vegetable creation easy of reference by the adoption of a binomial formula of nomenclature. Let an alphabetical classification be made of the several departments of human knowledge, within a certain limit,—and let the books in each department be arranged according to the name of the author alphabetically as now. By this plan the reader will learn

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the contents of the library on any particular subject. If at a loss to remember the title of a book, he may find it in its department; and it is possible he may obtain access to many works of whose existence he was unconscious. He will first turn to the department of knowledge, and then to the author's name;—the subject being, so to speak, the generic, the author the specific object sought.

Such a catalogue could be made by a well-organized staff of intelligent men, conducted by an officer of business habits—a small economist of time and labour—with a much smaller amount of money than was expended last year in printing Parliamentary Blue Books. Even the *Post-Office London Directory* reflects discredit on the present Catalogue.

The British Museum Library is certainly not of the use to men of letters that it ought to be. Many a proof is sent to press with a *quære* unanswered, and many an avoidable error committed to print, from a reluctance on the part of the author to hazard the disappointment of a fruitless search in the British Museum Catalogue. A very inconsiderable number of the visitors to the Reading Room belong to the substantial company of literary and scientific men. Some are compilers, some copyists, some penny-antiquaries, some idlers,—all aiding, *sub silentio*, to represent the value and usefulness of the institution.

BREVETTES.

ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

Readers of the *Athenæum* will doubtless remember the very pungent comments on the first volume of the "Ecclesiastical History Society's Edition of Strype," "which the editor's announcement that the documents contained in it had been verified as far as possible" drew from the pen of the Rev. Mr. Maitland—at that time custos of Archbishop Cranmer's Register, from which many of the most important and interesting were derived. Mr. Maitland showed [see 4th No. 1067] that the Register had never been consulted—and that "whatever might be the impossibility which prevented the editor from verifying the documents derived from Cranmer's Register, it did not originate with those who had the power of giving or withholding access to it." Mr. Maitland's charges (including, as they did, the omission of Wharton's Observations on the Memorials) were grave ones; and it was naturally expected that some reply should be given to them—or at least, some notice taken of them—by the editor or the managers of the Society. Accordingly, when the second volume was published it was accompanied by a small pamphlet which the subscribers were requested to place at the end of their first volume; and to which is prefixed the following:—

"Critical observations having been made upon the first volume of Strype's Memorials of Archbishop Cranmer, as published by the Ecclesiastical History Society, on the ground that the Editor had omitted Wharton's Observations on the Memorials, and had neglected to consult the archiepiscopal register at Lambeth, the reader is requested to observe that Wharton's Observations are now appended in portions to each volume of the edition, and that the bulls of Pope Clement VII. for the consecration, and the consecration oath of Archbishop Cranmer, together with 'the letter of the Prior of Canterbury,' and 'the oath of fidelity to the King against the Bishop of Rome,' taken by Boner at his consecration, are also published 'in extenso.' With respect to the Cranmer Register, the Society has only to observe that the blame of neglecting to consult it rests not with the Editor, but with the person employed to undertake that part of the work, who failed in the performance."

This seemed at least satisfactory to Mr. Maitland—respecting whom the friends of the Ecclesiastical History Society had been disposed to say hard things for his "unfounded" attack upon that body. The fault was admitted—and the culprit pointed at. But here the matter takes a curious turn—Who was this literary defaulter?—who was employed to undertake that part of the work and failed in its performance? Our readers will scarcely guess.—It is clear that our correspondent "A Subscriber to the *Athenæum* and to the Ecclesiastical History Society" [see No. 1106] could not guess. But in the number of the *British Magazine* just published, Mr. Maitland tells us into the secret:—

"Having read this, I did not inquire how far the correspondence and additions thus published went towards rendering the volume what it should have been. It seemed strange that the blame of neglecting Cranmer's Register did not rest with the editor, and I felt some curiosity to know who was the 'person employed,' but whom I had never heard of, or seen, at Lambeth. But that was not my business; which was only thankfully to accept the acknowledgment of 'the Society,' that in fact, the Register had not been consulted, and that my charge of that almost incredible neglect on the part of 'the Society' was true, and the editor's statement respecting the verification of the documents a gross falsehood. The whole tone and tenor of the Advertisement showed so plainly that 'the Society' (whatever individuals might be included in that term) had made up their minds to face the matter out, and shelter the delinquent, and tell the subscribers they must take what they could get in exchange for their money, that if I had been one of those subscribers, and considered myself entitled to remonstrate, I should have felt it hopeless. I did not therefore interfere with the matter until, on the 15th of December, I was informed (accidentally, and even unintentionally) from a quarter so respectable and well-informed as to preclude doubt, that 'the person employed' meant myself. Certainly such an idea had never crossed my own mind, as that I had ever been employed by the Society for anything, or connected with it in any way or degree whatsoever; and while I was surprised at the impudence of the thing, I could not help being amused at its absurdity, and the drollery of 'the Society' paying me off in such a high-sounding and humbuggish way, for finding fault with its book. If the jest has been carried so far as to bring my name into the accounts of the Society for a weekly salary, or for bills delivered, I beg to assure any future Treasurer or Auditors (I see nothing of such persons at present in the prospectus) that all these payments are as imaginary as the rest of the matter about my having been employed by the Society at all."

There is gross mismanagement in the conduct of this Society is manifest. The letter of our correspondent, to which we have before referred—and in which he called our attention to various well grounded complaints against those who have the conduct of the Society's affairs—tends to prove the justice of our remark upon a former occasion—viz., "how much more beneficial to the Ecclesiastical History Society than either the names or the subscriptions of its episcopal patrons would be the active interference in the management of its affairs of such distinguished scholars as the Bishops of London, Ely, St. David's, and Durham."

A JOURNEY ACROSS THE DESERT FROM CAIRO TO SUZ.

I will not give you any particulars of our "Journey from Cornhill to Cairo," as your readers are doubtless well acquainted with that route already:—but some account of the Desert, and the way in which it is crossed, may interest you. The distance from Cairo to Suz is about 84 miles; which is divided into sixteen stages—thus giving to each stage a little more than five miles. The carriage used in the transit is a strong machine with two wheels,—seated on each side like a London omnibus. It is drawn by four horses, and holds six persons. When the overland passengers arrive at Cairo they are usually divided into parties of twelve, and two carriages are despatched in company. Three or four hours elapse between each despatch, in order that the horses left at each stage by one party may be taken up by that following.

The first carriage, containing twelve of our passengers, left Cairo at 8 a.m.; the second, in which I was one of the party, left at mid-day. Having taken our places in the carriage, which was drawn up in front of the hotel, the Pasha's transit agent came out with a list in his hand and requested our names. Having found all correct, the order was given to start:—and away we went full gallop through the suburbs of Cairo towards the Desert. The mosques and minarets of this strange city were soon left far behind us—and the massive Pyramids themselves disappeared from our view. We were now fairly entered on the dreary desert waste. I scarcely know what terms to use in order to give a slight idea of the scene spread out before us. Have you been at sea on a stormy day when the waves were running high, forming hills and valleys on the mighty deep? Well, imagine by some supernatural agency this scene fixed and the waters changed into rocks and stones and sand—and you will form a good idea of the appearance which the Desert presents.

The road which has been made by the Pasha is much better than I expected to find it. At some places it was rather soft, and the wheels of our carriage sank deep in the sand; but it was generally hard, and we were enabled to go along at a good pace. We reached the first station, a distance of

about five miles, in little more than half an hour. Here we changed horses:—an operation which was clumsily performed by the Arabs, and which occupied nearly as much time as the stage itself.

After stopping thus at several stages, we reached the station at which we were to dine. Here we were allowed the space of two hours. The station-houses stand lonely enough in the midst of the waste; and, except those which are destined for the entertainment and rest of passengers, are merely stables for relays of horses. This at which we now stopped was one of the former description, and contained several bedrooms in which we washed and refreshed ourselves before dinner. The dinner provided by the Transit Company was very fair considering the circumstances. According to agreement, passengers are entitled to three meals per diem during their transit through Egypt. Wine and beer are not included:—nor are expenses at hotels in Alexandria, Cairo and Suz. After dinner we inserted our names in a book, stating that we were pleased with our fare; we then got into our carriages, and galloped on as before towards the next station. We were often annoyed and delayed by restive kicking horses—beautiful Arab animals, but evidently never properly broken in or trained; indeed, I suppose they are caught and put in harness at once without any kind of treatment to prepare them for it. We soon, however, became accustomed to their freaks, and paid very little attention to them.

The sun was now sinking, and appeared to be going down into the vast sea of rocks and sand. In all tropical countries the setting sun is a glorious sight, whether seen on land or on sea,—but here it is more than ordinarily striking. The last rays tinged the sky with many colours and imparted some of their beauty to even the desert wilderness. Then, it was night!—night which seemed to us more dreary than it does in any other part of the world. We reached the next refreshment station about 10 o'clock in the morning; and here we were to have tea and some time to refresh ourselves.

How we got through the night I scarcely know; it was a long and weary one, and glad we were when day began to dawn. The breakfast station was in view; at which we soon arrived—where we washed and refreshed ourselves. We here observed the telegraph at work (this extends from Alexandria to Suz); and were informed that the steamer "Bentinck" had arrived, which was to take us on from Suz to Ceylon.

During the afternoon and morning I took advantage of the time occupied in changing horses to inspect the vegetation of the Desert; for, notwithstanding its barren character, there are several very curious plants scattered over it. The only tree or bush of any size which came under my notice was a prickly species of acacia, not unlike *A. vera* in its appearance. A species of "mare's tail" (*Equisetum*) is also common; and seems to be much liked by camels and dromedaries, for it was generally found closely eaten. Colocynth grows here, and is much employed in medicine by the Egyptian practitioners. But the most common and striking plant that I observed is a species of henbane which has purple flowers and seems a stronger and more fetid plant than the English kind. In many parts it is very abundant, and apparently is never touched by any of the animals that cross the Desert. There are, of course, many other plants found here different from those I have just named—for it was impossible for me to wander far from the road or spend much time in examination. Many of the stones which I picked up were of fossil origin, and some of them had the annular wood layers beautifully defined. Scarcely an animal of any kind is seen except large droves of camels and dromedaries, which are used by the Arabs in the transmission of goods from Suz to Cairo and from Cairo to Suz. We often saw the bones of these animals bleaching in the sun on the road-sides where they had sickened and been left by their owners to die.

About 9 o'clock in the morning we got our first view of the little town of Suz and the Red Sea. The town had a black and uninviting aspect, and did not improve upon a nearer acquaintance. At first view the sea appeared to be only a portion of mirage which had so often deceived us, as it does all travellers in the Desert. But the well-defined shores and the masts of the noble vessels which were riding at anchor near the town soon convinced us that there was no

deception in this instance. We remained one day in the hotel here;—and then embarked in the steamship "Bentinet" for Aden and Ceylon.—R. F.

OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP.

THE French Government seems determined to place itself in an anomalous position with respect to M. Libri. It has come to our knowledge that the Minister of Public Instruction has written to him, informing him that by a recent law no one can hold more than two salaried functions of public instruction—the Institute not counting—and desiring to know which of his places (he holding more than two) he would wish to abandon. To this we understand M. Libri to have replied that a more important question is pending,—to which the particular attention of the Minister ought to be directed. No doubt the Minister—an able man—is ashamed of the position in which the French nation stands as to the charges against M. Libri. While the latter has published a triumphant negative as to all the surmises of the Bouley report, a new commission, appointed, it would seem, to make charges—honestly if it can—drags on a *paid* existence, asking for month after month of delay. We suppose it reports occasionally as follows:—"No stolen books yet; but your commissioners think it possible that in a few months they may be able to lay their hands on something which M. Libri cannot prove himself not to have stolen." This affair will soon be the "Nelson Monument" of France,—a thing to ask about once in six months. Farces should not be too long.

The late Dr. James Thomson, whose death at Glasgow we noticed a week or two since [*ante*, p. 71], has held the Professorship of Mathematics—not Natural Philosophy, which is occupied by his son—in the University of Glasgow for eighteen years; having been appointed to that situation from the corresponding chair in the Belfast Academical Institution in the year 1832. He was the author of elementary treatises on various branches of science, of which the following is a list:—"A Treatise on Arithmetic in Theory and Practice; with an Appendix containing an Introduction to Mensuration."—"An Introduction to Modern Geography; with an Appendix containing an Outline of Astronomy and the Use of the Globes."—"The First Six and the Eleventh and Twelfth Books of Euclid's Elements; with the Elements of Plane Trigonometry, and an Appendix in Four Books."—"Elements of Plane and Spherical Trigonometry; with the First Principles of Analytical Geometry."—"An Introduction to the Differential and Integral Calculus; with an Appendix illustrative of the Theory of Curves;"—and "An Elementary Treatise on Algebra, in Theory and Practice."

We hear from several quarters expressions of regret that while the officers and many of the influential members of the Society of Antiquaries are all zealously endeavouring to promote its efficiency, and thereby restore it to its position of usefulness among the learned institutions of the country, they are discouraged by the frequent absence of the President and Vice-Presidents from the weekly meetings. It is no disrespect to Mr. Collier, the Treasurer, who is called to take the chair on such occasions, to say that the Fellows feel it an ill compliment to them that, from the absence of Lord Mahon, Mr. Hallam, the Bishop of Oxford, and Sir Robert Inglis, he should already have been compelled to do so three or four times during the present season,—which commenced only in November last.

Mr. Macaulay's inauguration as Lord Rector of the University of Glasgow has, it is said, been postponed—and will in all probability not take place until after the rising of Parliament for the Easter recess.

To our remarks on the book-trade which is rapidly springing up along the course of the great railway lines of communication, we may add some mention of Capt Huish's project for making the stations circulating libraries and the carriages reading-rooms. Mr. Huish's scheme is a graft upon the undertaking of the Messrs. Smith. These several circulating libraries are to be the integral parts of one great establishment: and the passenger is to have the power of selecting a book at any stall, paying the price thereof, and after travelling any distance on the railway (where his journey terminates), deliver-

ing it at the station, and receiving back the value less a trifle for a perusal.—Capt. Huish is the director-general of the London and North-Western Railway—and his plan contemplates that particular line. It will soon, however, be imitated on the others if its machinery be found to work successfully.

A correspondent writes to us on the subject of chronological reckoning. He refers to the discussion which formerly took place whether the nineteenth century began with 1800 or with 1801, and enters into the question whether the 1st of January recently past is the beginning of the year 1849 or its end. He dates his own letter "1849 years 27 days of the Christian era." We do not see any advantage in entering on this discussion. As matter of fact, we believe it unquestionable that all chronologers mean by the year 1 the first year which follows the era. Our correspondent is not very correct for so keen a chronologer: an *era* is a point of time, not a succession of ages;—he should have said *from* the Christian era. If the year 1 follows the era, the century ends with 100, and the new century begins with 101. Ancient counting always excluded 0, and reckoned as the first from any instance the instance itself. This is seen in the musical scale: the note immediately above any note is not called the *first* above it, but the *second*: ask a musician what is the *first* above a note, and he will answer that there is no such interval; ask him what ought to be called the *first*, and he will answer,—the note itself, if you must have a first. Other instances are seen in the reckoning of the kalends, &c. But unless the first year be called A.D. 0, it is plain that A.D. 99 cannot end the century. Our correspondent is playing with edge-tools. We all know that when the style was altered great numbers of people really believed that eleven days had been struck off their lives. What if the ladies should take it into their heads that our correspondent adds a year to all their ages? We should not like to be in his place, we can assure him, if such a construction were put on his innocent meaning.

We have never adverted to the *tableau* mania—believing it to be a passion which would sink to its proper level, if not protected by persecution. But when we see "A live anaconda, 15 feet long" advertised as an attraction in a presentment "of Man's first disobedience," we cannot but ask whether the same police authority which prevented the ascent of the tiger in the Vauxhall Balloon might not be employed with regard to an exhibition so utterly reprehensible.

A Report just published shows the flourishing state and prospects of the Dublin University Museum. Its arrangements, says the Report, have advanced steadily, save during a short period when the occupation of the College by Her Majesty's troops somewhat retarded them. Considerable additions have been made in all departments, both by purchase and by donations. There is now nearly ready for the press a most carefully made catalogue of Irish Entomology. Continued attention has been paid to the increase of the collection of Irish animals; the result is a larger assemblage of species than had ever before been brought together. For this collection it is contemplated to provide a gallery in connexion with the Museum. It is intended that one side of it (forty-seven feet long) shall be devoted to casts of fish accurately coloured after nature. Much remains to be done in the ornithological collection,—for which the removal of the Irish birds will make way. The number of species of foreign birds is very considerable. Such advance has been made in the arrangement of recent shells, that it is hoped that in the course of next year the rich conchological stores of the Museum may be fully available. The geological collection has received most important additions, and there is reason to hope for some other extensive contributions. The Professor of Mineralogy has arranged and labelled the extensive systematic collection of minerals in a manner which will enable a student to derive much advantage from their inspection; and the Board, seconding his exertions, have placed at his disposal a sum of money for the purchase of species wanting to complete the series. Several valuable collections of exotic plants, comprising about 2,000 species, have been purchased for the Herbarium; and donations of nearly equal amount have been presented. Among the latter are an especially interesting collection from

Sir T. Mitchell's exploratory Expedition and a liberal contribution from Sir William J. Hooker.

The Paris papers report the death in that capital, of M. Tatu, the well-known librarian of Sainte G  n  vi  ve.

The Constantinople journals confirm the tidings of the premature death, at Ispahan, of M. Hommaire de Hell,—a young savant charged by the French Government, as our readers know, with a scientific mission in Persia. Excess of physical and intellectual fatigue undergone in the marshy provinces of Maasdiran and Atterabad are said to have finally subdued a constitution predisposed to pulmonary weakness. M. de Hell was scarcely thirty-four years of age.

A new French journal, *Le Pays*, gives some account of a philanthropic scheme conceived, and about to be executed, by M. Chabert in the interest of the labouring classes—which extends in some useful respects the principle of the English model lodging-house. His project is, to erect in each of the arrondissements of Paris what he calls "Labourers' Cities." Clean and airy lodgings are to be provided for the tenants, at a price below that of their present tainted abodes; consisting of a kitchen, bed-chamber, and sitting-room, heated by stoves in winter which are to be ventilators in summer. A common washhouse will be established for each 'city'—and bathing-houses, the tickets for which will be so distributed among the tenants as to allow a certain number of baths per month to each inhabitant. Furnished chambers will be provided at 6 or 8 francs a month for workmen who have no means of purchasing furniture; a portion of the weekly sum going as rent, and the remainder to liquidate the furniture by instalments, and finally make it the tenant's own. Each 'city' is to have a public hall, warmed as a place of shelter for the poor of the arrondissement: and this will be also a rendezvous for the unemployed workmen of the district—where masters may find all sorts of handicraftsmen on demand. The workmen will inscribe their names with the inspector of the 'city,'—whose certificate will be a testimonial to employers in search of hands.—In several of the arrondissements physicians have already offered their gratuitous services to these intended establishments.

BRITISH INSTITUTION, PALL-MALL.

The Gallery for the Exhibition and Sale of the Works of British Artists will OPEN on MONDAY, the 13th instant, and will continue open daily, from Ten till Five. Admission, 1s; Catalogue, 1s. GEORGE NICOL, Secretary.

ROYAL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION.—A VIEW of the GOLD DISTRICT of CALIFORNIA is added to the New Series of DISSOLVING VIEWS. LECTURES on the CULTIVATION of the VOICE, and on the ART of SINGING, by G. CHORD, Esq., illustrated by a variety of Songs, on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, at Two o'clock:—on the ELECTRIC LIGHT, by Dr. Bachoffner, on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday Evenings;—on CHEMISTRY, by Dr. Ryan, with brilliant Experiments, daily, and on alternate Evenings. CHILDREN PHANTASMAGORIA, with New Effects, on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday Evenings, at Eight. NEW CHROMATOPHORE MICROSCOPE, DIVING and DIVING-BELL MACHINES, and MODELS explained. The Music is directed by Dr. Wallis. Admission, 1s; Schools, Half-price.

SOCIETIES.

GEOGRAPHICAL.—Jan. 22.—W. J. Hamilton, Esq., President, in the chair.—Lord A. Churchill, Dr. Travers Twiss, and W. S. W. Vaux, Esq., were elected Members.

"On the Trade and Resources of the River Nuts," by Lieut. Lysaght. At present, from about fifteen to twenty vessels, averaging from 200 to 300 tons, visit the river yearly. These are mostly French; although the trade,—which has come up to 40,000,—is principally in the hands of British merchants. Two-thirds of the imports are British manufactured goods from Manchester and Birmingham, the remainder French small wares and German arms. The exports consist of gold, ivory, hides, wax, and of late a large and increasing quantity of ground-nuts (nearly all of which are for the French market). The slave trade has entirely ceased in this river; and the great demand for labour in cultivating the groundnut will probably prevent its revival.

"Journey to the Karkoram Pass in Central Asia," by Dr. T. Thomson. The author left Panamik in Nitra on the 8th of August, 1848; and took the road across the mountains which the merchants who trade between Ladakh and Yarkand follow during the months of June, July, and August, when the common route along the Shayok is rendered impracticable by the rise of that river. On the 10th he

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entered the mountains, and on the 12th was as high as 16,000 feet among larger patches of snow. On the 19th he crossed the Sasar Pass over an immense glacier, the height of which he estimates at rather under 18,000 feet. His own camp was 15,500 feet; and the bed of the river, wide and gravelly, was about 500 feet below him. A few miles above Sasar two glaciers descend from the mountains and completely cross the bed of the stream, which runs below them, and along which, till ten years ago, when it was blocked up by these glaciers, the road to Yarkand lay. On the 18th he emerged upon a wide, open, somewhat undulating plain, extending eight or ten miles, the elevation of which averaged about 17,500 feet. The northern part of this plain was excavated into a wide, open valley; the bed of which (about 17,100 feet) was traversed by a small stream running from E. to W. and probably joining the Shayok. On the nineteenth he proceeded to the top of the pass—height, 18,604 feet. The name "Karakoram" is confined to the range north of the table land and in particular to the pass which Dr. Thomson ascended. This range, which probably nowhere exceeds 20,000 or 21,000 feet, seems an offset from the snowy range twenty or thirty miles further west. It is curious that, though much lower than the range further south, it is in fact the dividing range between the central or Yarkand basin and the basin of the Indus—several streams breaking through to get to the Indus. The surface of the plain is covered with small, waterworn fragments of all the surrounding rock; and its substance seemed to consist of a hardened calcareous clay. The rock, where visible, is limestone. Altogether, the general features at once suggest the idea of the bed of a lake. Between Nitra and the Shayok Dr. Thomson has made many acquisitions to botany. The species were many of them new; cruciferae especially, astragal, oxifraga, gentiana, leucis, papaver, potentilla, &c. The most curious plant was a species of *Alnus*, which formed extremely dense and hard tufts a foot or more in diameter. But the pass itself was perfectly bare—a mass of stones without a vestige of vegetation; nor did anything of the kind appear till at least 500 feet below. Dr. Thomson reached Le on the 11th of September, and left it on the 15th; taking the most direct road to Kashmir—where he arrived on the 5th of October, in time to study the natural history of that interesting valley before the close of the season.

[We understand that this enterprising traveller is the same Dr. Thomson who has since been made a captive by the Khatiks—fellow power it is to be hoped both he and his fellow-sufferer, Col. Lawrence, will soon be released.]

SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES.—Jan. 25.—J. P. Collier, Esq., the Treasurer, in the chair.—A paper was read from J. A. Repton, Esq., of Chelmsford, on a subject with which he is intimately acquainted, viz. the other indications of the age of Gothic edifices besides the shape and proportion of arches. It was accompanied by illustrative drawings, &c.—Mr. Repton made a communication to the Fellows on a corresponding subject no less than thirty-eight years ago. His new positions were distinctly laid down and established, his explanations were lucid and, as far as they went, convincing. The truth is, that, whatever may be the indications, however clear and positive, there must always remain considerable doubt, if only from the circumstance that in the fifteenth century buildings may have been, and certainly were, constructed in imitation of a much earlier style. If it could be established that at particular periods churches were erected only in one style, and that the style of the period—the case would be different. All that Mr. Repton could do, therefore, was to show that certain indications warranted a belief that an edifice was raised at a certain date, whether Saxon (supposing any such remains to exist), Norman, decorated, perpendicular, florid, or of the later and more debased forms. Mr. Repton's paper put into the compass of a few pages all that could with any certainty be advanced.—It was followed by the exhibition of some private seals; the main peculiarity of which was, that they were ancient classical intaglios incongruously placed in mediæval settings, with mottoes of the same date.—Mr. Akerman accompanied them with a short paper, principally explanatory of the origin of the gems and of the meaning of the inscriptions round them.—The readings of the evening were concluded by an

account of the tomb of Gunilda, in Flanders, by Mr. Steinman.

LINNEAN.—Jan. 16.—E. Forster, Esq., in the chair.—J. Hepburn and F. Salmon, Esqs., were elected Fellows.—A paper was read from W. Huxley, Esq., R.N. 'On the Anatomy of Diphyses, and on the Unity of Composition in the Diphyside and Physophoride.' The paper was illustrated by a series of drawings.

ROYAL INSTITUTION.—Jan. 19.—W. R. Hamilton, Esq., V.P., in the chair.—The Rev. the Master of Trinity College, Cambridge, 'On the Idea of Polarity.'

Polarity is a new idea, which is not yet clearly held by most persons.

1. It occurs first in Gilbert (De Magn., lib. i. c. 3), who compares the poles of the magnet to the poles of the earth,—"being certain determinate points, the termini of the motions and effects; the limits and governors of several actions and virtues." "Yet," he adds, "this form does not proceed from a mathematical point, but from all contiguous parts according to their contiguity." From the magnet, then, came the whole philosophy of polarity yet acquired; and there is probably much more to be derived from the same source. The position of the magnetic needle on the earth's surface was first explained by supposing that it tended to two magnetic poles; but, as observations were multiplied, it was found that this supposition could not explain the facts. Four poles were assumed by Hansteen (Magnetismus der Erde, 1819); but Gauss (Taylor's Scien. Mem., vol. ii. arts. v. ix.), investigating the result as a mere effect of indefinite magnetic elements, showed that there were only two points which could be called poles:—and the common notion of poles melted into polarity.

2. Thirty years ago, the theory of Malus—which, assuming light as a material emission, invested its particles with poles—was for awhile satisfactorily used to explain the phenomena of what was called polarization of light. Though this was a clumsy and improbable theory, it explained the facts; and a clumsy and improbable theory which does this, is a step to a theory which does it better. Philosophers soon seized the essential point in this hypothesis: viz., that it implied opposite properties in opposite directions—calling those opposite directions which are at right angles to each other; and the opposite properties, the property of being transmissible or non-transmissible, reflexible or non-reflexible, by the glass or crystal. As the facts of the polarization of light became better known, the notion of particles with poles became more untenable; and the notion of transverse vibrations was adopted.—Here, also, the notion of poles melts away into the idea of polarity.

3. In Franklin's electricity, the attractions and repulsions were well explained by Coulomb; who referred them (not to fixed poles, but) to fluids having polar relations (positive and negative).

4. In galvanic electricity, the analysis and synthesis which took place in the battery have been proved by Dr. Faraday to be due, not to any action of definite points, as poles, but to be extended over the whole circuit. Dr. Faraday's substitution of the terms *anode* and *cathode* (the doors by which the current passes up and down) for the term *poles*, is itself an instance of the notion of poles vanishing as the idea of polarity became clearer. It was also shown that, galvanic electricity being Franklinic electricity in another shape, a relation was established between chemical and electrical polarity.

5. **Electro-Magnetism.**—Ersted discovered that the lines of galvanic and magnetic polarity arranged themselves at right angles to each other; and thus we had still more distinctly two connected polarities. But this was not all. The needle not only tended to stand transversely to the galvanic current, but it did this by turning in a particular way under given circumstances. There was more, therefore, here than in the polarization of light, where all that was requisite for certain phenomena was that the plane of polarization should be perpendicular to a certain plane, whether it became so by turning to the right or to the left. These kinds of polarity may be distinguished by calling the one *current*, the other *axial*, polarity. The fact of current polarities necessarily calls for a mechanical hypothesis of the connexion. And the

general facts of electro-magnetism may be derived from supposing the magnet to consist of parallel transversely-circulating galvanic currents, such currents attracting each other.

6. **Magneto-Electricity.**—By the above hypothesis magnetism could be derived from galvanism, and this was verified in part. What—could galvanism, conversely, be derived from magnetism? Dr. Faraday discovered that magnetism, not permanently existing, but when beginning or ceasing to be, puts electricity in action. If a magnet be conceived as consisting of transverse galvanic currents, then when those currents are put in motion there is, as it were, a re-action (like the recoil of a gun) producing a galvanic current in the opposite direction. When the currents are stopped there is, as it were, a momentum producing a galvanic current in the same direction (as the bullet when stopped tends to drive the obstacle forward). The mechanical terms "re-action" and "momentum" are here advisedly used to show that it is necessary to have recourse to images which may be only transitory hypotheses, to be modified or even rejected hereafter. But in this magneto-electric induction we have a kind of mechanical effect produced by the machinery which had previously been used to express galvanic polarity—namely, a current. The distinction of rest and motion, which had already given origin to the term *current*, appears in a new form in the relation of galvanism and magnetism. Here the machinery which had already been devised, appears to receive a sort of confirmation.

7. **Electro-ionic State.**—Transverse electricity. The philosophical caution of Dr. Faraday in declining to hazard any conjecture as to what actual condition this idea embodies—until facts shall have clearly disclosed it—contrasts instructively with the rashness with which men of great name in Europe (for example, Schelling and Hegel) have built up systems of arbitrary and baseless polar antitheses from their own imaginations. The idea of polarity, like all other ideas which enter into science, can, to any purpose, be suggested, evolved, defined, generalized only by attention to facts—by practical, skilful, ingenious prosecution of experiment.

Though we have many kinds of polarity, and many connexions among them, we are as yet unable to see the whole bearing of these connexions. It is as if we had advanced, scene by scene, into the middle of a drama, and had observed the sympathies and antipathies, the relations and derivations of the characters, and still had to wait for the dénouement, in which all these find their places and their reasons.

8. **Chemical Polarity** now enters as a new character in this drama. Chemical speculation leads us to attempt to conceive in what manner the elements of bodies are associated. If two atoms, A B, adhere so as to form one particle, the line A B, which joins their centres, must have some position in space. It may be looked upon as an axis, the poles of which are A and B.—Crystallization plainly depends on the position of such axis. Chemical polarity appears in the form of galvanic polarity: it appears, also, in the form of crystallization. And the connexion between these polarities, which was *a priori* probable, Prof. Plücker and Dr. Faraday have recently established by experiment—namely, by discovering that the magnetic force determines the position of crystals and its influence. But this is an *axial* polarity (like that of the polarization of light), not a *current* polarity (like that of the magnet under the galvanic line).

9. Here then we have, as it were, a closed cycle of polarities. Chemical polarity is galvanism—galvanism, in a transverse direction, is magnetism—magnetism, in a transverse direction, affects crystallization. Crystallization is a result of chemical polarity. But this cycle is not really complete; for here the term chemical polarity is used in two different senses. Chemical polarity, as identical with galvanism, is the polarity of chemical analysis and synthesis. Chemical polarity, as connected with crystallization, is the polarity of permanent chemical composition or *syntaxis*. And this implies relation of space. Now, the relation of chemical *syntaxis* and *synthesis*, i.e. of the permanent structure, and the transient or progressive act of the dissolution or composition of that structure, is obscure; and not yet an element of any theory. Therefore, it is not

inferior execution and size, although perhaps of remoter antiquity, occur in Orissa and in Behar; but the greater number and those of highest antiquarian and architectural interest are scattered over the west of Central India and the Dekhin in the territories formerly subject to the Peshwa of the Marathas,—or from the province of Kandesh and the valley of the Tapti to the vicinity of Bombay and the upper part of the Malabar coast. The locality was in fact suggested by the topographical features of the country and the course of the Satpura and Sahyadri hills and the western Ghats mountains; which were not too lofty and abrupt to be accessible, the substance of which admitted of being easily wrought,—and of which the numerous hollows and ravines, bounded by moderately high but precipitous escarpes, offered surfaces by which the industry of man might readily penetrate into the more solid rock and excavate it into the semblance of columns and porticoes and halls and temples,—works of labour rather than of taste, but not unfrequently of ingenious design and imposing effect. Such were the excavations in the Island of Salsette and the Rock Temple of Karli, near Poona, described and partially illustrated by Lord Valentia, Mr. Salt, and Bishop Heber, in their travels or in the *Transactions of the Literary Society of Bombay*; the caves of Bag and Bone, described by Capt. Dangerfield in the same collection; and those of Nasik and Juner, which have not yet been noticed in detail.

That an extensive series of rock-cut temples was to be met with in the Ajunta Pass, on the road from the valley of the Tapti to the Dekhin, between fifty and sixty miles north of Aurangabad and 200 to the N.E. of Bombay, was ascertained soon after the country fell into the hands of the British government,—or about thirty years ago; but the accounts that were given to the public were short and unsatisfactory, and comparatively little was known of the excavations until very lately,—when they were described in some detail by Mr. Fergusson in a communication made to the Royal Asiatic Society, and published in the *Society's Journal*, Vol. VIII., p. 30. The account, with some additions, was repeated by the author, in explanation of his beautiful views of several of the Ajunta and other rock-cut temples, in one volume folio. From these sources, we are now in possession of authentic illustrations of these monuments of a past age and an expatriated religion.

When the cave-temples of India were first explored, the study of Sanskrit literature and Hindú antiquity was in its infancy,—and speculation regarding their origin and purpose was without any secure basis on which to build. Mr. Erskine, in his valuable papers on the excavated temples and the remains of the Buddhists in India, published in the *Transactions of the Bombay Literary Society*, was the first to dissipate the confusion that had previously prevailed, and to indicate the chief characteristic peculiarities by which Brahmanical, Buddhist, and Jain excavations might be readily discriminated. The mythological figures and subjects of the sculptures in each furnish, of course, the principal means of distinguishing them; but there are other peculiarities, especially in the excavations of the Buddhists, which supply incontrovertible proofs of their appropriation. The presence of these characteristics shows that the Ajunta caves are principally if not entirely Buddhist. Buddhist excavations are distinguished by Mr. Fergusson into two classes. One consists of a large central chamber or hall, surrounded on two or three sides by a number of small cells; to this he applies the designation of *Vihar*, the term for a residence of Buddhist priests or nuns, a monastery or a convent,—and he therefore calls such excavations monastery caves. The other class partakes more of the character of a church or temple, having a porch, a nave, and side aisles, and being in general of a higher style of execution and more elaborately ornamented than the *Vihar*. These he terms *Chaitya* excavations; as they usually contain at one end of the nave or central aisle a small structure similar to the solid cupola-topped temples found in the Buddhist countries, Nepal and Ceylon,—where they are denominated *Chaityas*. The more correct appellation of the structure, however, is *Dogopa*,—from *deha*, "the body," and *gopa*, "what protects;" as it is nothing else than a shrine in which some reliques, as hairs, nails, teeth, or vesture and

the like, of a Buddhist saint are,—or are believed to be,—inurned. It is in general embellished by a sitting or standing figure of the last Buddhist teacher, Gautama or Sakya-singha, and is sometimes surmounted by a kind of spire or umbrella. Both classes of excavations are found in some number at Ajunta; showing it to have been the seat of an extensive establishment of the Buddhists at the time when their form of faith flourished in Hindústan.

The Ajunta caves, besides the sculptured embellishments and the figures of Buddha which they possess in common with similar excavations, are characterized in several instances by the presence of paintings on their pillars, roofs, and walls. These were early noticed, and were said to be fresco paintings; but some uncertainty appears to exist on this subject. Mr. Fergusson remarks:—"I looked very attentively at the paintings to try and discover if they were fresco paintings or merely water-colours laid on a dry surface, but was unable to decide the point. The colour certainly is in many cases absorbed into the plaster; and I am inclined to think that they may have been painted when it was first laid on and consequently moist,—but I do not think it could have been done on the modern plan of painting each day all the plaster laid on that day."

Whatever might be the nature of the paintings thus discovered,—as they were of undoubted antiquity, and from the descriptions given of them appeared to afford valuable illustrations of the condition of Indian society of the era to which they belonged,—as they were often said to possess considerable merit as works of Art,—it was a subject of legitimate regret that they should be reported to be in a state of rapid destruction; partly the effect of time and exposure,—partly from the accumulations of dirt from the nests of bats and birds built in the caves and the smoke of fires lighted by native travellers or robbers who found shelter in the excavations,—and partly from the wanton injury inflicted by curious Europeans who broke down and carried away specimens. From these causes it seemed probable that in a few more years every vestige of the paintings would disappear, and a record of the history of the past of unquestionable authenticity would perish. The circumstance was brought by the Asiatic Society to the notice of the Court of Directors of the East India Company, and a request was made that they would authorize their Indian Governments to adopt measures for an artistic and antiquarian investigation of the ancient architectural monuments of their several Presidencies, and for their preservation as far as might be practicable, and their perpetuation by means of carefully executed measurements and delineations. The application was received by the Court in the liberal spirit in which it was made, and orders were promptly transmitted to India to carry the arrangement into effect. One of the most immediate and beneficial consequences of the Court's instructions has been the employment by the Government of Madras of an officer of their establishment, Capt. R. Gill, to clear out the cave-temples of Ajunta, to furnish full details of their construction, and to make faithful copies of the paintings. Capt. Gill has been engaged for some time past on this duty with equal ability and zeal, and has sent home interesting reports of his proceedings. He has also transmitted copies of the paintings, as far as executed, fourteen in number; which are now in the Library at the India House,—and which are very remarkable, whether they are contemplated as records of a past condition of society or as works of Art of a period which, although it cannot be defined with strict chronological precision, cannot from evidence furnished by the paintings themselves be very far from the commencement of the Christian era. This is placed beyond doubt by the appearance of characters upon two of the number which we know to belong to the alphabet in use about that time, and which had undergone considerable modification by the third or fourth century. The same period is confirmed by the prevailing subjects of the paintings, which, with one or two exceptions,—and those probably of a later date,—are unequivocally Buddhist.

Of the paintings at the India House, eight were received some time since. Six have been recently added. Of these the majority are obviously Buddhist, representing different groups; in which a teacher standing or sitting, intended probably for Sakya, is

evidently communicating his doctrines to attentive audiences, consisting principally of women, but including a few men, some apparently of high rank, as are the women from the ornaments which they wear,—but occasionally representing Indian ascetics and warriors armed with swords still in use among the Nairs of Malabar. In one group is introduced an up-country Brahman, wearing a cap commonly worn by Brahman *Gosains* in the upper provinces in the cold weather, and having his forehead marked with the sectarian lines that denote a follower of Siva. The principal standing figure of Buddha is usually clothed in a long tunic; but the sitting figure wears no upper garment, and he may be intended for a lay teacher or a converted prince making proselytes in his own palace, as the scenes in which he is represented are usually in the interior of a building. The women are for the most part very scantily attired; but a few are dressed in chintzes and silks. They are evidently of different ranks and classes, some being the handmaids of the others; and they vary accordingly in complexion,—those who seem to be of rank being comparatively fair. In one or two instances the colour is European. Amongst the servants are some with African features and complexion. In one of the paintings, containing the standing teacher in three different groups, we have a *Chaitya*, or *dehgo*, a clear indication of the origin of the painting. In another all the figures are Buddhist priests; among whom six are distinguished by umbrellas,—intended perhaps for the six Buddhas who have ruled over the present age of the world. This painting is apparently of a later date than some of the others.

Some of the groups fail to present decided traces of Buddhism; although in the attitudes, appearance, and costume of the figures there is a general conformity with those of which the origin is not doubtful. In two instances at least, however, and perhaps in three, the subjects are Saiva. One represents Siva and his attendants, including one apparently intended for a negro. Another has groups of figures among the buildings of a palace, with a colossal head of Siva in the centre,—distinguishable by the outline of the head-dress, although in other respects defaced. A small painting with two figures only, male and female, may be intended for Siva and Parvati. There are two groups which seem rather to record historical than religious events. They are much injured; but the heads and upper part of the bodies are well preserved,—and represent warriors, with turbans curiously intertwisted with the hair, and armed with spears of a singular form, with bows, or with battle-axes. One who is mounted and armed with spear and shield has a turban like that worn by the Rajputs. At one end of the same frame which contains one of these military groups is a group of women apparently playing on musical instruments. They are all but naked; and the general expression both of them and of the men suggests the wild inhabitants of the hills and forests of Kandesh, or the Bhils of the present day. That these figures have some relation to Buddhism is rendered, however, probable by a third painting; where we have evidently the same persons, characterized by their very expressive countenances as well as by the twisted turban, who have laid aside their weapons, and with joined hands—the usual attitude of reverence—are looking towards what is undoubtedly, although much defaced, a *Chaitya*, distinguishable by the outline.

In one of the paintings last received we have a representation of a herd of elephants. They are not caparisoned; and there is but one human figure in the painting, who is on foot. Another picture seems to be a continuation of this; beginning with a group of elephants who are stopped by a building or turret on which are two figures with faces apparently tattooed. On the other side of the wall is a group which represents probably a Raja in his interior apartments, with his Rani and female attendants. Then succeeds a group in which we have the sitting teacher, attended by female disciples and some mendicants in red garments, such as are worn by *Saiva Gosains*, but which were also worn by Buddhist ascetics. We next have a standing teacher with female auditors:—and then another group of females gathering flowers or fruit, with a teacher apparently turning away. The females in these groups are almost all without any clothing; but they wear on the arms and legs the heavy bracelets and anklets which

are still worn by Hindú women of all ranks. The presence of other men than the head of the family in the most private apartments of the buildings, although not wholly incompatible with Hindú manners at an early date, is an additional indication of Buddhism—the first teachers of which are described in Buddhist works as having free access to the interior of the residences of great men and princes, and as being always attended by numbers of female disciples. The paintings of the Ajunta Caves afford, therefore, important evidence of the condition of religious belief in India at the time of their execution, and will probably be regarded as equally interesting contributions to the early history of Art.

The pictures above referred to, considered as the production of so early a period, may be regarded as objects of very high import in pictorial art. In many of them certain striking coincidences with Siennese and Pisan art under the influence of Byzantine taste are to be remarked. There are the same diagrammatic manifestations of the human form and the human countenance—similar conventions of action and of feature—a like constraint in the choice of action and the delineation of form in consequence of a like deficiency in knowledge of the human subject, and a like earnestness of intention and predominance of dramatic display. That these pictures were executed at distinct times and by various hands there is internal evidence. While, however, they offer such proofs of the progress of Art, there is, in some of them one quality too singular not to be remarked on. There is a compliance with the principles of perspective in architectural details in the very pictures in which these same principles are violated in the relative scales of the parts in the assemblage of human forms. The sense of light and shade, or the art of making figures obvious and clear at a distance, is found in these coinciding with the early Italian art before alluded to. The sense of colour is little more advanced in them than in Egyptian art as made known to us through the medium of Rossellini, or than in most other aboriginal conditions of Art. Assigning the date of these pictures to the period suggested by the author of the preceding memoir (a very learned authority on such subjects), it is at least remarkable that evidence of perspective should be found so very much earlier than the date of any existing specimens known in Southern Europe. The earliest examples of the application of perspective principles in Italian art date somewhere about the middle of the fourteenth century.

FINE-ART GOSSIP.—The project of a Vernon Testimonial to which we have already alluded is about to be carried into substantial effect. A meeting of the committee appointed for the purpose—in which we see the names of Lords Northampton and Colborne, Sir R. Peel, Vice-Chancellor Wigram, Sir George Staunton, Sir John Swinburne, the Dean of Westminster, and thirteen Royal Academicians—is to take place this day at Messrs. Colnaghi's house.

From Edinburgh, we are informed of the death of one of Scotland's most eminent amateur artists—Sir James Stuart of Alanbank. He was well known in the artistic world by his spirited and characteristic sketches and etchings—more particularly of cavalry skirmishes. Himself originally a cavalry officer, to his professional acquaintance with the subjects on which he treated were owing the truth and beauty with which the action of the horse or the military manœuvre were rendered by his pencil.

In Paris, a commission has been appointed for the purpose of taking measures for appropriating the Palais National for the next exhibition of paintings and sculpture by living artists.

At the Hampstead *conversazione* on the 24th ult., the works of Art were almost exclusively contributed by members of the Junior Society of Painters in Water Colours. First, there were a number of sketches in charcoal (fixed) by Mr. Dodgson. Two capital studies of Venetian scenes, in Indian ink, were from the pencil of Guardi. There were two water-colour studies by the late Mr. Müller from sites in Asia Minor. An interior of a Gothic church in France exhibited Mr. Joseph Nash's mastery in all the details of tracery, mullion, crocket and corbel. A number of coloured studies from the hands of Mr. Davidson were remarkable for their

fresh and clear look. Mr. Duncan's studies interested much from the faithfulness of their record whether of coast scene, figure, nautical craft or still life. A large collection of water-colour studies—chiefly of Italian subjects—were from the hands of Mr. Palmer. They were for the most part scenes about Rome and Florence. By M. Rivière the studies were chiefly of the ruins of Pompeii and its environs, Pæstum and the Campagna. Mr. Jenkins's contributions were for the most part transcriptions from Brittany, in interiors and figures; and some of the latter were capital specimens of individuality. There were very interesting details of interiors and furniture at Knowle. An interior of the Chapel at St. Valéry was to be remarked for its fidelity:—the peep through the door was like looking out into the open air. To a 'View of the Chateau d'Eu' recent circumstances gave a mournful interest. Four etchings by Thomas Landseer from his brother's pictures were a great feature in the show. An 'Interior of Hampstead Church,' by Kelly, a pupil of the Hampstead Reading Room drawing-class, was a good perspective representation from a very elevated and unfavourably chosen point of sight. A cork model of the Arch of Constantine bore, amid its other points of similitude, no slight resemblance in the material in which it was executed to the travertine of which the original is constructed. There were a number of calotypes taken by Mr. Sherlock chiefly on and near the Seine:—some were from pictures. Mr. G. F. Romilly exhibited some decorated playing cards,—the pack telling a fairy story in pantomime.

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA

Mlle. Jenny Lind at the Hanover-Square Rooms. MADAME DULCKEN (Pianiste to Her Majesty) has the honour to announce that she will give a GRAND EVENING CONCERT at the above Rooms on TUESDAY, February 20th, on which occasion Mlle. Jenny Lind will sing several of her most celebrated Arias, &c. Madame Dulcken will play Mendelssohn's Second Grand Concerto, and will be assisted by other very eminent talent. The Orchestra will be numerous and select. Conductor, Mr. Balfe. Reserved Seats and Tickets at all the principal Music Warehouses and at Madame Dulcken's, 20, Harley-street.

THEATRE ROYAL, DRURY LANE.

CIRQUE NATIONAL DE PARIS, under the Management of Mr. DEJEAN. Children under Eight Years of Age admitted at Second Price from the commencement of the Entertainment. MONDAY, February 28th, and during the Week, will appear, Meddles, Caroline Mathilde, Palmyre Anato, Ducos, Anagnin, &c.; MM. Scwome, Loisset aîné, le petit Loisset, nicknamed 'The Little Devil,' Lalanne, &c.; MM. Auril, Leclair, young Auril, and Mahomed Ben Said.—The Celebrated Match of the 25 Volteurs, and, for the first time, the Fête of Flowers.—Commence at Eight o'clock.

MORNING PERFORMANCES every WEDNESDAY and FRIDAY; commence at Two o'clock; Children at Reduced Prices.

EXETER HALL.—Mlle. Lind's Concert-Singing.—The other ladies and gentlemen who sang at Mr. Balfe's benefit-entertainment on Monday last must excuse us from saying more than that the over-ambitious or hackneyed music selected for them would make specification merely reiterated blame. Who can speak again of 'Bel raggio,' 'Sorgete,' 'Se m'abbandoni,' and such now elderly Italian opera *scenas*, when they are sung by second and third class vocalists in an arena so unfavourable to vocal display as Exeter Hall? Even Mlle. Lind herself—having left the stage (a fact which, we are told, is past dispute)—would do well to leave the stage-repertoire,—to give 'Casta Diva' and 'Di piacer' a holiday. It might be all well enough for Catalani, who was a voice rather than an artist, to go the round of the concert-rooms and Festivals with a few *bravuras*, suitable and unsuitable; while the constancy of our English public to 'old songs'—whether such coarse homespun as 'The Bay of Biscay' or such threadbare foreign farce as 'Un segreto'—is wondrous to see:—but a thoughtful and accomplished musician like Mlle. Lind, gifted with peculiarities of voice which enable her to begin where other songstresses stop, has fields of interest, research, and high musical triumph far apart from and superior to the ground too generally occupied by concert vocalists, sometimes (as in the case of the Italians) out of indolence, sometimes from unwillingness to hazard popularity by experimentalizing. Thus, on Monday, so far as we are concerned, the main interest of the evening was comprised in the *trio* of Mlle. Lind's voice and two flutes from Meyerbeer's 'Camp de Silesie.' No marvel of the kind has come within the range of our experience. In Handel's 'Hush, ye pretty warbling choir,' the flutes flourish and the voice sustains long notes; but here the latter

dashes in, and among, and against, and above the two instruments,—challenging, accompanying, imitating, and distancing them with a volubility and a brilliancy which acquire double difficulty from the resemblance of tones in the contending and concurring parties. No other vocalist in our experience, save Madame Cinti-Damoreau, could have executed certain of the passages,—and perhaps not she herself could have kept her voice so steady in a position as unique and unprotected. The other novelty sung by Mlle. Lind was an English ballad by Mr. Balfe, composed expressly for her. Never had nature composed so many good chances as this gentleman—never has *maestro* of any country been so uniformly unsuccessful; whether the matter in hand were a waltz-rondo for Malibran, or an opera for the best Italian company in man's recollection, or a melody to be sung by the *prima donna* whose notes and predilections her conductor must almost daily have studied for a couple of years. A poorer song than 'The Lonely Rose' could not well be written. The attendance at Exeter Hall was very numerous and the applause great; but the specific want of interest in such performances can hardly fail to be felt upon repetition, and would be wisely provided against by the artist who is to be the principal attraction of the coming concert season.

ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.—*French Comic Opera.*—The French, considering their love for "toys," seem paradoxically fond of pulling the drum to pieces to show its hollowness. They are continually making plays about play-actors (*vide* 'Kean,' 'Mistral Sidi,' 'Tiridate,' 'Le Père d'un Débutant,' and dozens besides),—but possibly they never did the first more gracefully than in 'L'Ambassadeur.' The moral of this opera (who ever named such a thing before?) is not after the British mode. More faithful to Art than many English writers of Art-novels, M. Scribe shows that the grandeur of the 'gilt coach with the Flanders mares' will not make up for the excitement of what Mrs. Butler so cruelly called "the lamp oil and the orange peel" life. We never feel as if *Henriette* were in her right place until she leaves her "fantastical Duke of dark corners" and all the difficulties encumbering a match 'twixt Cloth of Gold and Cloth of Tinsel for the bond-fide triumph of 'Le Sultan Misapouf.' Strange to say, in spite of its wholesome truth and satire, 'L'Ambassadeur' was long "the rage" in Paris. Written at Mlle. Sontag—contrived for Mesdames Cinti-Damoreau and Jenny Colon,—and containing some of Auber's prettiest music,—it was there run "out of breath," until now it tempts no more. In London it is as good as new; having never been given so perfectly as it was yesterday week. Yet Mlle. Charton, being something more and something less than a *chanteuse à roulettes*, does not throw into her character the true theatrical tone imparted to it by Madame Cinti-Damoreau;—her ornaments, too, in all the scenes of display are less triumphantly airy. Nevertheless, her success is complete—especially in the lesson *terzetto* in the Second Act. This is a capital piece of composition. Up to the point where the movement changes into 3 time there is nearly as much humour in Auber's music as in Scribe's text, combined with that flow of graceful melody which is the composer's peculiar property. Madame Guichard is remorselessly natural as *Charlotte*. Dukes there have been whom such hardened audacity as hers would not repel; but it becomes unpleasant on the stage,—all the more so in one who has to sing the sweetest *solo* in the opera, 'Que ces mûrs coquets.' M. Bonnamy, as *Benedict*, was not at ease before his public; but, under the best of circumstances he can rank only as a second tenor. M. Duguet, as *Fortunio*, the Manager, is capitally "made up";—his costume, his airs of diplomacy or despair "as bespoken," and his florid dialect of Italian-French are to the life. Nor could we if we would overlook Madame Mancini as *Madame Barneck*; though no second representative of that stupendous Aunt—with a kind woman's heart by way of kernel—can make us unfaithful to that Queen of all Duennas.

—from her throne departed, not discredited, Madame Boulanger of the *Opéra Comique*. 'La Dame Blanche' was produced on Wednesday Space is wanting for us to offer an extended characterization of Boieldieu on this occasion; though his grace of

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melody, his felicity and delicacy of instrumentation, his constructive power, and the high finish bestowed on his work, constituting him a first-rate composer, claim for him a respect and attention which he has never yet received in England. The public of amateurs and artists is much obliged to Mr. Mitchell for giving it a new pleasure by placing these masterpieces in a right point of view. The story of 'La Dame Blanche,' a romantic mixture of 'The Monastery' and 'Guy Riquart,' militates against the perpetual attraction of the work; and seeing that the tenor, *George Brown* (M. Bonnamy) has the best musical part in the opera, while 'Mees' (Mlle. Chanton) comes off second best, the presentation is less excellent than it would have been could M. Coudere have shown us the careless good-humour belonging to the soldier-lover—also that touch of *niaiserie* which, seemingly, falls by right whimsical and prescriptive to the tenor of the *Opéra Comique*. Yet the music is heartily relished; the terezet closing the First Act, the duet in the Second, and the auction finale go off with excellent spirit. We must again commend M. Buguet, the *Gaudeur* (or *Glossin*) of the opera; in whose doings, musical and dramatic, there seems to us much of the energy, certainty, and self-forgetfulness which mark the true artist.

HAYMARKET.—On Thursday, Mr. Jerrold's play of 'The Housekeeper' was revived, in consequence of its having been performed that day week at Windsor Castle. With its representation the royal theatrical season terminated. Whatever beneficial consequences may otherwise result from these Windsor recreations, the restoration of the present drama to the boards is one. It was originally produced at the Haymarket in 1833 with great success,—and has, on this its restoration a renewed triumph from the spirit and talent with which it is supported. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kean in *Sidney Maynard* and *Felicia*, and Mr. Webster in *Father Olivier*, lend a peculiar strength to the cast. The neglect into which this drama has fallen is not owing to its want of vital principle,—but to its construction. Nothing can be more brilliant in its witty, or more beautiful in its pathetic moods than the dialogue; but the incidents are so arranged and the patience is so tried by the manner in which the *dénouement* is brought about,—to say nothing of the unnecessary accumulation of uninteresting situations,—that as a whole the piece is not calculated to be extensively popular. In a word, structure is sacrificed to fine composition. This latter, on the present occasion, certainly was not lost on the house. The audience were exceedingly attentive, and applauded the best things;—particularly those confided to Mr. Keeley, who undertook *Simon Box* for the first time, and enacted it in such excellent style that even his reputation must be increased by the performance. Mr. Wigan as *Tom Purple* was well suited to his part. It is to be hoped, for the encouragement of good writing on the stage, that this piece may be frequently repeated.

Mr. Cenville's comedy of 'The Wonder' followed; in which Mr. Kean sustained the character of *Don Felix* and Mrs. Kean that of *Donna Violante*. Mr. Kean's performance is in many respects a rough copy of Mr. Charles Kemble's. Without the same advantages of personal appearance, it has much elegance and vivacity. The *Violante* of the evening was delightful. In other respects the cast was good. To these two pieces were added the burlesque of the season;—making altogether a right bountiful evening's entertainment.

SADLER'S WELLS.—On Monday one of those costly revivals for which this theatre has become celebrated took place in the reproduction of 'King John,' with appropriate and pictorial accessories. This play is partly Shakspeare's, and partly the work of a previous dramatist whose reputation lives only in the anonymous tragedy of 'The Troublesome Raigne.' To this nameless man our great poet was indebted for the plot—which he does not seem to have taken the trouble to correct by historical reference—as also for the persons, the situations (the very groupings of which he has directly adopted), and the arrangements of scene and incident. But, with wonderful art, Shakspeare has at the same time elevated and elaborated the dialogue, substituted the

bombast by poetry, and in the process somewhat modified the tone of the characterization. The character of John himself, for instance, comes out highly improved by the masterly touches thus thrown in. Arbitrary and remorseless in his tyranny according to the elder dramatist, the monarch suggests unhesitatingly and at once to Hubert de Burgh the expediency of Arthur's death. According to Shakspeare, it is with solemn circumstance, and under the influence of the sublimest poetry, full of the conflict between will and conscience, that the usurper insinuates to the man whom he might command a deed from which the better nature of both recoils. In such visitings of the Muse as this it is that the stage becomes oracular. By them the true dramatist is distinguished from the playwright. Very inferior talent may render all the mechanism of a play and produce successful situations; but it requires genius to sublimate them into impresses immortal as humanity. Mr. Phelps, in the scene alluded to, rose into unaccustomed power,—as also in the subsequent scene with Hubert (Mr. G. Bennett), when charging on the instrument the crime of the principal. This likewise is a poetic development of the materials furnished by the old anonymous play. From the like attention on the part of the poet, the character of *Lady Constance* acquired even still greater improvement. In 'The Troublesome Raigne' there is, indeed, the maternal anguish; but the passion is mere clamour, blind rage and malignity. Shakspeare has, in some degree wisely, transferred these qualities to *Queen Elinor*,—and, in their stead, attributed to Constance an eloquence and majesty of sorrow unequalled in the world's drama. Her cause and that of her son Arthur over-inform the play. Her actual part, indeed, ends early,—but her spirit continues to the close of the tragic story, and pervades every scene with a secret influence. While present, such is the intensity of her grief, such the vehemence of her wrath, such the height of her final agony, that, only appearing occasionally in two acts, Mrs. Siddons herself records that the performance, brief as it is, must necessarily exhaust the physical energy and task the highest mental powers of the most accomplished actress. Miss Glyn's acting in the character deserves examination. The restoration of some passages gave again to the stage the vituperative conflict between the two queens,—Mrs. Marston impersonating *Queen Elinor*. This lady enacted the virago to the life; and well contented with Constance's dignity and passionate contempt, where these do not give way before the maternal sentiment. The third act opens with great power. The grand Shakspearian burst when, "instructing her sorrows to be proud," Constance throws herself on the ground, in its mingling of passion and majesty commanded repeated applause. The famous address to *Austria* was pronounced with scorn intense and vehement. The resignation of despair succeeding to exhausted fury, and the madness succeeding to that, were both effectively interpreted. We would advise Miss Glyn to diminish the amount of her by-play. It looks too anxious,—and displays a degree of art that better art would conceal.—The character of *Faulconbridge* was sustained by Mr. Marston with discrimination and force of style. Mr. Bennett as *Hubert* threw his usual rough pathos into the part: and Miss Mandlebert as *Prince Arthur* was pleasing. The enthusiasm of the audience, at the conclusion of the performance, was great; and Miss Glyn, Mr. Phelps and Mr. Bennett were recalled before the curtain to receive the accustomed expression of it.

MARLBOROUGH.—A clever drama, in two acts, improperly denominated a farce, was produced at this theatre on Monday, with deserved success. It is called, 'Isn't it a Duck?' The situations turn upon an ingenious incident and its curious psychological operation upon the hero, *Simon Skate* (Mr. J. Herbert), a fisherman's son, in love with *Molly Muscle* (Miss Saunders). The father of the maiden, *Matthew Muscle* (Mr. J. W. Ray), forbids the courtship unless Simon can find fifty guineas to begin the world with,—otherwise he threatens to marry his daughter on the morrow to old *Wilks*, who can muster thirty. An uncle Simon thinks will advance the needed cash:—but on inquiry he finds that the former had died overnight, leaving his property to his housekeeper. Meantime, *Mr. Marmaduke Macaroon* (Mr.

G. Cook), a pastrycook and uncle to *Molly*, arrives from London; and while conversing with *Muscle* and his daughter is alarmed by the reading of a proclamation, by a party of villagers and officers, concerning a certain highwayman, one *Ratsbane*, who robs upon an original plan. This *Ratsbane* had recently offered for sale to a traveller who had about him the sum of 200*l.* a duck for precisely that amount, presenting at the same time a pistol as a persuader. One of the party meeting *Simon* in despair, jocosely tells him that ducks are now of high value, one having been lately sold for 200*l.* A bright idea strikes *Simon*. He has two ducks—he will sell one at a somewhat lower figure. Suddenly he meets with *Macaroon*; who, frightened without being hurt, closes at once with the proposal to pay 70*l.* for a duck. The officers are soon in pursuit of the highwayman,—whom they naturally suppose to be on the spot—for this new robbery. They meet with *Simon*; who from their conversation gathering the real state of the case, readily apprehends the danger that he has incurred. He accordingly contrives his escape without delay.—Five years elapse between the acts. The fugitive has made a fortune in India,—and returns home, happy enough except when allusions are made to ducks and executions. *Molly Muscle*, seeking for a housekeeper's place in his establishment, becomes again known to him. *Marmaduke*, now a bankrupt, receives an explanation and 500*l.* Old *Muscle* is satisfied with a good dinner,—and the lovers make preparations for an immediate wedding.—To Miss Saunders, of whom we have frequently spoken in terms of well-merited praise, this little piece is indebted for its best effects. Her performance in it is exquisitely natural; and it is satisfactory to find that the management are beginning to perceive her worth. Mr. Herbert is a lively comedian; and Mr. Cooke's efforts to please were, as usual, acceptable. From the number and respectability of the audience we infer that this theatre is rising in estimation.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC GOSPEL.—To conciliate revival with progress is a task requiring no ordinary expenditure of that judgment and ingenuity which (some of us take leave to think) were better employed in creation. To how many contemporary artists and cognoscenti might we apply Browning's subtle description of the mediæval Duke.—

So, all that the old dukes had been without knowing it, This Duke would fain know he was, without being it; 'Twas not for the joy's self, but the joy of his showing it, 'Nor for the pride's self, but the pride of our seeing it, He reviv'd all usages thoroughly worn out, The souls of them fumed forth, the hearts of them torn out.

It may be some comfort to reflect that in Music, at least, such foppishness has proved transient in proportion to its fierceness. We have seen, within a short period, the fancy for introducing Gregorian barbarism into our Protestant churches culminate, decline, and be succeeded by a healthy disposition to render our service-music grave without monkish grimness—serious alike in selection and in execution.—We have small fear that 'Little Jane of the Mill' or 'The Lass of Richmond Hill' or 'Fancy's Sketch,' will ultimately succeed in exchanging the cider-cellar or shilling-gallery popularity which is their befitting meed for acceptance in any concert-room:—since though managers and tune-mongers and rhymesters and singers may conspire to keep taste in leading-strings, the public will not for ever oblige them by its acquiescence. The history of Art must be a tale either of Decay or of Discovery. There is no residence for it in *statu quo*. The master-pieces of Genius which "are of all time" do not alter in value, but they change their position. Works of talent, on the other hand, which gain an adventitious favour from their adaptability to the times and circumstances of their appearance, are sure to be depreciated as years roll on. Our remarks most largely concern creation, but they also bear upon representation. A correspondent has obliged us with particulars of the re-construction of the *Concentores Society*. This has recently taken place at Gresham College, with Mr. M'Murdie for president, Prof. Taylor as vice-president, and a fair number of members. A first meeting has been held, "with every prospect"—as we are assured—"of success." We are glad to note this; since it is well that some body devoted to the execution of our good part-music should be kept together and flourish,

—and an old London college seems the befitting home of old English music. But would there be no possibility of giving to this society a significance with regard to the future as well as to the past? It did not—unless we mistake—because its operations were too exclusively circular: it can hardly therefore be expected to live unless by some means it can be made to keep pace with the means and requisitions of the day. Now is the moment for those directing to avail themselves of a gleam of interest and prosperity for the purpose of assuring to it future existence. Are there no means of associating the younger school of English composers with it?

A press error in last week's notice of the *Wednesday Concerts* [ante, p. 97] claims explanation. Speaking of Miss Lucombe, we observed that in right of certain attributes "she interests us more than the generality of her contemporaries." For us, "no" was printed; and a meaning was thus given to the sentence diametrically opposed to ours. —This is the place for registering another correction, not of ourselves, but of a neighbour. We are assured, on authority not to be questioned, that the *Morning Post's* statement of Mdlle. Lind's honorarium of 500*l.* for singing at concerts is exaggerated far beyond the reality. We expressed doubt while citing the announcement [ante, p. 74]; and as we then offered "a quotation" or two tending to show how largely the claims of the executant had increased of late years, it is but fair, on the other hand, to remind those concerning themselves with "facts and figures" that the Agujari, alias La Bastardella, received the sum of 100*l.* a-night for singing two songs at the Pantheon Concerts some seventy years since—in 1776. —While on the subject of precision in advertisement, let us complete the announcement of the Swedish Lady's appearance at *Her Majesty's Theatre* promulgated as a fact by our contemporaries—by an addition not unimportant. Mdlle. Lind's determination to appear no more on any stage is known to every one who has had speech with her, though she will probably sing in concerts for Mr. Lumley. —We have yet another item to add to this paragraph of *errata* and *corrigenda*. There are musical statements which are as sure to re-appear from time to time as were the blue balls of the pawnbrokers derived from the Lombards to come out on a newspaper *maigre-day* till their re-introduction was rendered ridiculous by Charles Lamb's experiences of paragraph-making. Any lady, for instance, who sings Mozart's 'Deh vieni, non tardar,' may count upon a compliment for having "restored" &c. &c. an *aria* perversely omitted in 'Le Nozze,' by past *Susannas* from time immemorial. Let us see if, once for all, we cannot *blue-ball* this story. The song (whether an additional one Mr. Holmes or M. Oulibicheff perhaps can tell us) has been sung in London by two out of the three *Susannas* who have taken part in 'Le Nozze' since 1837—and in both cases with a certain *encore*. The ladies were Mdlle. Blasis at the *Opera Buffa*,—and Miss Kemble at Covent Garden, whose impassioned and expressive reading and exquisite vocal finish made this *aria* the attraction of the *Opera*.

In spite of the revival of political agitation in Paris, the musicians of that capital seem to be organizing new societies and establishments. A "Musical Union," in apparent rivalry with the *Concerts of the Conservatoire*, has just been founded, with M. Manéra for its conductor: the place of meeting being a new concert-room called the *Salle Sainte Cécile*, in the Rue de la Chaussée d'Antin,—which M. Berlioz praises as providing Paris with that desideratum, a room available for great orchestral performance.—M. Fétis adverts to a *Symphony*, by Herr Rosenhain, recently performed at a concert of the *Brussels Conservatoire* as a praiseworthy work. As our Philharmonic Society's call upon its subscribers is now out, and as possibly a trial meeting may be held before long, this may be the place for earnestly pressing upon the Directors a systematic course of experiment, which, with sagacity and research, might, we think, be conciliated with the pleasure of the old subscribers. Unless something of the kind be attempted, the interest of these meetings must, and will, languish.

The past year has made sad havoc among the musical journals of Germany. We are informed that the *Universal Musical Gazette* of Leipzig, the *Musical Gazette* of Berlin and Vienna, the *Teutonia* and the

Cecilia have all died in the midst of the recent political discords, which show few signs of resolution.

Professional jealousies, from the narrowness of the stage-arena, prevail to perhaps a greater extent in the theatrical than in any other profession; but it is seldom—from an opposite reason, the enlargement of the field—that they are found to include individuals of different countries. America, however, has lately become so identified with England in her dramatic relations, and performers of the two countries have been in the habit of so frequently interchanging visits, that the chances are yearly multiplying which bring them into collision. This has been the case with Mr. Forrest and Mr. Macready. Mr. Forrest many years ago made a successful appearance at Drury Lane Theatre,—and in the course of time naturally felt himself induced to repeat the experiment. He and Miss Cushman, accordingly, tried their fortune together at the Princess's some four years since; when the public accepted the latter and rejected the former. Mr. Forrest has thereupon conceived the notion that Mr. Macready had exerted some secret influence with the press of this country to prejudice the Oxford-Street audiences against him; and now that Mr. Macready has revisited America, he has taken the opportunity to appeal to his countrymen against the supposed wrong. The terms used by Mr. Forrest are too gross to permit repetition; suffice it to say, that the charge is positively denied by Mr. Macready. In "a card" addressed "to the public of Philadelphia," he states that "when Mr. Forrest appeared at the Princess's Theatre in London he himself was absent some hundred miles from that city, and was ignorant of his engagement until after it had begun." Other aspersions, since avowed by Mr. Forrest, have appeared in the *Boston Mail*:—and for these Mr. Macready now announces his intention to seek redress from the American tribunals.

MISCELLANEA

Tubular Bridge.—The deflexion at the testing of the second tube over the Conway by the Government Inspector, was very slight, and the result satisfactory. Before any of the testing weights were drawn into the tunnel, it was ascertained that the deflexion then existing was 1·86 in. The testing ballast, amounting to 235 tons, caused an additional deflexion of 1·56 in. only, thereby showing that with the whole of the above superimposed weight, the departure from a straight line was only to the extent of 3·42 in. The load having been withdrawn, in less than ten minutes the structure regained its former level or deflexion. The variation in the tube, which has now been in use for many months, does not, we believe, extend to the sixteenth part of an inch.

Gigantic Scheme.—The *Rhenish Democrat* states that a gigantic project, the construction of a canal between Kiel and the mouth of the Elbe, connecting the Baltic with the North Sea, is seriously contemplated. The reason assigned is the frustration of the monopoly of the passages of the Sound and the Two Belts, at present enjoyed by the Scandinavian powers. Without some such independent communication the creation of a German fleet would be vain.

The Common Watch.—The common watch is in many of its parts a very ill-constructed machine. The train of wheelwork which transmits the motion of the main spring, for example, is contrived on principles so faulty that they would be scouted by every practised mechanician. Yet there can be no doubt that any attempt to introduce a better machine would utterly fail as a commercial enterprise. Long used methods and ingenious engines have been specially provided to fashion and cut every one of the minutest parts which go to compose the existing instrument. Mr. Dent in a lecture delivered at the Royal Institution stated that every watch consisted of at least 202 pieces, employing probably 215 persons distributed among forty trades—to say nothing of the tool-makers for all of these. If we were now materially to alter the construction of the watch, all those trades would have to be relearned, new tools and wheel-cutting engines to be devised,—and the majority of the workmen to begin life again. During this interval, the price of the new instrument would

be enormously enhanced. We should again have men speak, like Malvolio, of "winding up their watches" as a token of magnificent wealth. Thus, in our complicated state of society, even machines in process of time come to surround themselves with a circle of "vested interests" which embarrass all our attempts at improvement.—*Edinburgh Review*.

A Monster Snake.—The good ship *Allen*, Capt. Williams, recently arrived at Salem, Massachusetts, from the coast of Africa, having on board a living monster serpent of the constrictor species, which verifies all the stories we have heard of their crushing and swallowing a horse at a single meal. It is much larger than any ever before taken, its length being 30 feet. Of course the arrival of such a monster set all our showmen into a wonderful fever. Van Amburgh, and June and Titus, despatched an agent for them, *via* New Haven; one of the firm of Raymond & Baring proceeded by way of Worcester; and Barnum sent his major-domo, Hitchcock, by the steamer *Bay State*. The Yankee proprietor of the snake, seeing such an excitement, and feeling that it will be difficult to run an opposition, has taken his ground; and a telegraphic despatch to Van Amburgh and Co. announces that he will take no less than \$10,000 for it, and in case of not finding a customer, he will turn "showman" and exhibit himself. The agent offered \$7,000 for it, but Mr. Hitchcock immediately bid \$500 more, and so the matter stands. Capt. Williams positively avers that it took 125 negroes seven hours to secure this monster. They did it by means of a heavy rope-net made for the purpose, and thrown over him when coiled up.—*New York True Sun*.

Picture Cleaning in Edinburgh.—Considerable excitement has been created in the circles of Edinburgh in consequence of the treatment to which some of the valuable paintings in the Royal Institution have recently been subjected. According to the statements made in the Scottish papers, and confirmed to us by other authorities, it appears that several of the finest of these works were placed in the hands of a picture cleaner to be cleaned and restored,—and that while undergoing the ordeal, two noble "Vandykes" and a "Poussin" have received irreparable injury, as well as others of less importance.—*Art-Journal*.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—F. G.—D. S.—"R."—E. L. T.—F. E.—S. R. M.—S. H.—A. A. P.—R. H.—F. M.—C. M. D.—W. L.—An Old Subscriber.—R. K. P.—A Working Man.—A Prussian and Pupil of Prof. Ranke.—C. Dr. J. H. T.—A Subscriber.—E. T.—received.

R. B.—The editor would be glad to see the notes mentioned by this correspondent.

INDICATOR.—We are obliged to this correspondent, who calls our attention to a letter from Mr. Dent which has appeared in a contemporary publication on the subject of the Aneroid Barometer; but the matter is not deserving of any further attention. If our correspondent will refer to our last number [p. 99] he will see that Mr. Dent had addressed ourselves to the same purport,—the difference between the two letters being only that each is adapted to the genius and speaks the language of the particular publication to which it appealed. Mr. Dent knew that his *prima facie* right to a reply would be forfeited so far as our columns are concerned by the use of terms unbecomingly the discussion of "philosophical questions"—as he himself puts the proposition—and indemnified himself for the necessary restraint in the quarter where such considerations are of no account. He had, therefore, from us the benefit of his statement—which, with the further correction of our comment, our correspondent will find as above referred to. The subject, as we have said, is not important enough for further notice;—but as we are thus once more called to give the following extract from a letter which has been addressed to us by Mr. Malcolm, the Secretary to the Western Institution.—"I have heard said when a person resorts to abuse, it is a sure sign he has no sounder weapon to use;—and it is evidently so in this case. Mr. Dent says that I should 'have gone to the child's plaything and seen an elder urchin burst the India rubber ball before the fire.' In the simplicity of yourself, state that the wording of the paragraph in the *Indicator* relating to the lecture will evidently bear the construction put upon it by you—viz. that Mr. Dent lectured here. The ambiguity was not an intentional one; and arose from the circumstance that myself being the party who lectured, my aversion to blow my own trumpet caused the omission of the name."

Errata.—No. 1169, p. 85, col. 1, l. 39, for "Seven Years" read *Silesian*.—Col. 3, l. 72, for "Iceland" read *Ireland*.—P. 68, col. 1, l. 8, for "Iathan" read *Ithacan*.

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